## PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

# 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **ADDITIONAL PAGES UPDATE**

### DISTRIBUTED AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING

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Additional Representations on Schedule Items Pages 4 - 11

# **ADDITIONAL PAGES ON SCHEDULE ITEMS**

Item	Ref. No	Content
04	17/04141/FUL	Two further Third Party Objections i) Albion St Residents' Group (please see attached, with photographs and plans also reproduced in Officer's Powerpoint slides)
		ii) Local Resident "I support that stance and comments made by Mr Forbes on behalf of Albion Street Residents Group on the 11th June 2018. The planting will not soften the appearance of the building and additional planting is required. As he has said an omission of 14 trees with a replacement of 3 is not acceptable. As Mr Ponting also said the Planning Committee should visit the site to understand what the residents are facing due to the overbearing height and close proximity to homes of the development."

#### **Submission from Albion Street Residents Group**

#### 17/04141/FUL Variation of condition to amend approved landscape scheme

We have put together this document together with the accompanying annotated drawings to demonstrate the difference between the approved scheme (as part of originally consented scheme) and the currently proposed (but already mostly implemented) scheme, together with a suggested amendment.

- Drawing 1 shows the original consented scheme
- Drawing 2 shows the current proposed scheme
- Drawing 3 shows suggested amendments to the current proposed scheme.

### On all three plans:

- Green shading shows soft landscaping planting areas, shrubs and grass.
- Dark green shading shows trees
- Pink shading shows hard landscaping tarmac or paving
- Blue shading denotes the lane off Albion Street
- The red lines demonstrate a 60 degree view from mid-way along the lane.

We have compared the landscaping approach when viewed from the lane off Albion street, between the original consent and the current proposal, and shown this on the attached **drawings 1 and 2**. Essentially the original consent achieved screening by retaining the two large conifer trees <u>and</u> by providing a number of trees spread through soft landscaped areas.

By contrast, the proposed scheme

- replaces the soft landscaping with tarmac and other hard surfaces,
- removes mature trees, and
- provides minimal tree planting in a single line at the boundary.

You can see this clearly by contrasting the area of green and pink on the two drawings: on drawing 2, virtually all the green shading is replaced by pink shading.

The difference between these plans is stark, as is the building in consequence, and this is the total opposite of what was discussed at the November 2017 Committee Meeting, and clearly should not be acceptable.

In the representative view arc shown the Approved scheme contains 14 trees including 2 existing mature trees, but the Proposed scheme has just 3 trees and one failed tree.

In addition one of the planted trees has evidently not survived as there is inadequate space around it, a further tree shown on the approved plan has not been installed, and at least one further tree cannot be planted in the perimeter strip as it would sit over the Foul Sewer that exits the site into the lane.

The two photographs below show the current view from the lane off Albion Street.

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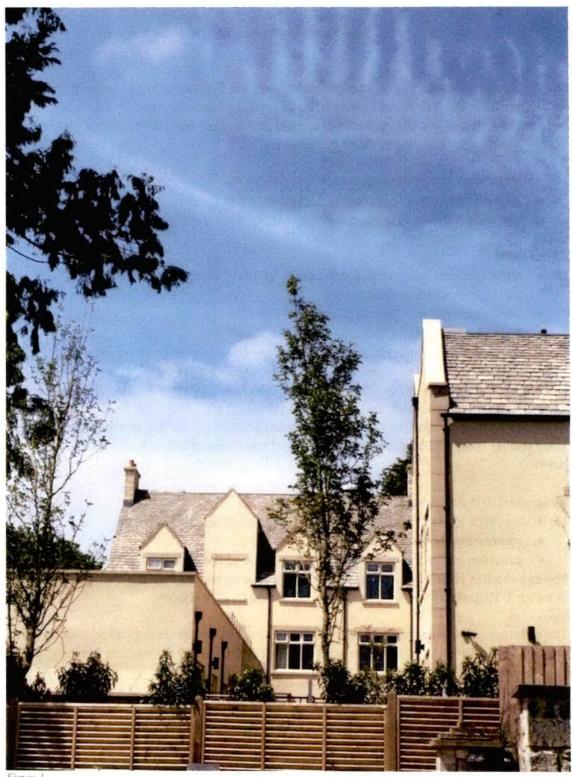


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the direct view from the lane off Albion Street and demonstrates clearly that the view of the building on the development is not mitigated at all by the tree planting. The

overwhelming view is of built form and rendered elevation. The fence erected on the boundary does nothing to mitigate the overbearing effect.

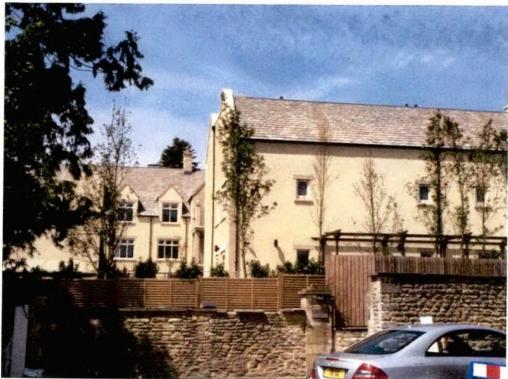


Figure 2

In Figure 2, a slightly increased density of tree planting can be seen to the right of the photograph, which achieves a better degree of mitigation. However, the tree on the left hand side is, we understand, due for removal under the current proposals.

Your landscape officer in consultation response on 19 April confirmed that: "there is a gap in the tree belt,...the proposed planting is really important in softening the appearance of the building in public views from Albion Street." and "If there is a reason why this cannot be achieved (i.e. services), mitigation will need to be provided elsewhere".

Clearly this is the case as the foul water sewer prevents completion of this screen, and per your landscape Officer's recommendation, additional planting is required. As you can see from drawing 2, this has not been provided for in the proposed scheme.

We have again shown some additional tree planting that could be achieved on our further attached **drawing 3**.

Together with the actual planting of the further omitted tree in this area as a large specimen, we earnestly hope that you will insist that this minimal amount of additional planting is done. Otherwise, this scheme clearly cannot be acceptable.

At the Committee meeting in November 2017 when this Committee approved the retrospective application to 'regularise' the increased eaves height, changes to fenestration

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and other matters that had arisen over the course of construction, you acknowledged the building is overbearing but you approved the retrospective application to increase its height from the originally approved drawings, but you and your chair in particular made crystal clear to the officer that the amended landscaping scheme, that had been applied for, needed to additionally mitigate these extra impacts.

Comparison of these two drawings clearly demonstrate the lack of mitigation in the proposed scheme. The omission of 14 trees and replacement with just three cannot be acceptable. This is underlined by the two photographs included with this document.

Councillors should visit the site further to appreciate this issue, and in particular to assess the further impact of the trees that cannot be planted because of the sewer or the removal of the large conifer tree.

Alternatively, you may like to give Officers the opportunity to secure the additional planting requested in either case, then we would ask for a deferral of this application for this reason.

If a deferral is not acceptable, then a refusal would surely give the applicants an opportunity to amend their proposals, as they would have no hope of defending this meagre and inadequate planting scheme at appeal.

Colin Forbes 10 June 2018

