

Supporters Speech to be read out for the Proposals at Gardener's Cottage in Oddington

There are many supporters of this application in Oddington. We also love the Cotswold stone and brick buildings which form part of our village. These come in both old and modern styles yet they all harmoniously combine to create our beautiful village.

Our view is that well considered modern design, built from local materials has the ability to enhance our village. The skilful use of local Cotswold materials in a slightly more contemporary fashion works brilliantly and this is exactly what this proposal sets out to do.

The supporters of this application know that this Architect and the conservation officer have already combined their skills to result in a lovely modern, yet subtle extension in the village on Sawpits lane. We feel this is an important factor for the committee. That project was also in a conservation area and it skilfully used local materials in a slightly modern fashion to create a building of real merit.

We feel it's a shame that some directly affected neighbours objected to this proposal for what seems are unfounded reasons, for example suggesting the removal of a maple tree. From what we can tell, the maple tree will not be removed and it isn't even on the application site. This along with other similarly bizarre objection comments have left a lot of genuine supporters feeling paralysed and a little afraid to give their views.

Now that this proposal is at committee we would like to say that we feel the proposals are not even controversial as they only use contextual Cotswold materials, with a traditional pitched roof forming the largest part of the proposals.

It is clear that the smaller flat roof area is proposed to soften and create a sense of openness and like the conservation officer we have no doubt that the trailing plants from the green roof would look beautiful and in keeping.

We would encourage committee members to understand why the design has evolved into what is currently being presented as that process has in fact studied Back lane, its history and its existing buildings - to ensure the design presented today is in keeping and will improve the existing street scene on this lane.

We don't like the existing low quality bungalow building on this site, and do not wish to see something similar. We would much rather this committee grasps the fantastic opportunity here which has the support of both the conservation officer and the planning officer.

Our combined view is that the Architect, the planner and the council's conservation officer know exactly what they are doing and we should attach significant weight to their professional opinion over other considerations .

This sophisticated proposal should be commended and celebrated, it would no doubt be a massive improvement to the lane and we would all welcome it and the positive contribution it would bring to our village.

We do hope common and objective sense will prevail