

John Howell OBE MP

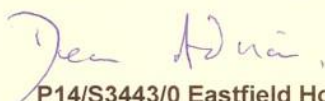


HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Adrian Duffield
Head of Planning
South Oxfordshire District Council
Benson Lane
Crowmarsh Gifford
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P14/S3443/0 Eastfield House

I have been contacted by Harry Butterworth who is the Chairman of Whitchurch Parish Council. Mr Butterworth has voiced the views of the Parish Council and many local residents in his concern regarding the planning proposal to demolish Eastfield House. I share this concern and I believe that there are several serious reasons why the proposals should be refused.

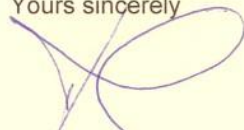
In short, the proposed development is unsuitable for the setting and for the context of the site. The current characterful 1880s Victorian building is situated within Whitchurch's designated Conservation Area and the proposed demolition of this historic building has conjured up some strong emotions from my constituents who live in the area. They have pointed out the building's many fine features, including the stained glass windows and the feature stone entrance porch and window settings. The proposed building shares none of these design features.

The issue of increased traffic in the village is an additional key concern. The Eastfield Lane and High Street junction are unsuitable for additional traffic and larger vehicles, which I believe would result from the proposals. I am also concerned about the issue of safety which may result from the increase in traffic. Access to Eastfield Lane is only possible through a stretch of 87 metres which is too narrow for a footpath and yet has to serve as the main point of access for children walking to the Primary School and pre-school.

The increased risk of flooding is a further concern that has been raised with me, particularly as the building's ground floor is being lowered, in spite of the proximity to the flood plain. Last winter there were problems with rising levels of sewage which overflowed into gardens and at least one house. Concerns have been raised that an increase in the number of residents will exacerbate this problem.

I would be grateful if you would take these objections into account. There is strong local objection to the proposals and I think it is important that the voices of the local residents are given full consideration.

Yours sincerely



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