

Appeal Against Refusal to Demolish Eastfield House



Against the strong wishes of the community, Ross Healthcare has submitted an appeal against the refusal of their application to demolish all but the façade of Eastfield House. There have been a number of previous planning applications and the village and South Oxford District Council have made their positions clear that Eastfield House should be largely retained. It is unfortunate that Ross Healthcare have sought to push through proposals that are contrary to the opinions clearly expressed by the residents of the village and SODC.

If the appeal is upheld important features including the whole roof, the tall chimneys, the single storey west wing (to the left of the main house) and the west facing elevation will disappear. The brick façade would be restrained during construction, with all the windows removed. The applicant has offered to rebuild parts.

Please register your objection to this appeal, for the following reasons:

- The removal of the majority of the building will affect the integrity of this 1880 landmark. The side elevations, the west wing and the roof line with the dormer windows, all help to define the building as a whole. A modern replacement would give the building a totally different appearance.
- This demolition will affect the historic interest of the building, which contains many fine period features and helps to define the eastern extent of the conservation area.
- There are serious risks that the retained parts could be damaged during construction, due to accidents or construction limitations, leading to the requirement to demolish the whole building, as Ross Healthcare have previously applied to do.
- A modern replacement cannot match the fine detailed craftsmanship of the existing building and would be by comparison a cheap imitation.
- The principle of further demolition is a dangerous one, where once established it could lead to further applications for an even larger facility. The likelihood of this happening cannot be underestimated.

The village has registered its strong objection to this development before, but it is crucial that that we again make our feelings known to the Inspector. Please register your objection to this proposal, even if you have done so before, **by 27th January 2016.**

To File Your Comments please either use the link below, or write to

The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/09, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN quoting the reference **APP/Q3115/W/15/3140879.**

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?Caseid=3140879&CoID=0>