

Lymington Society Press Release

Lymington Society opposes loss of 3 family homes and development of yet more unwanted sheltered homes.

The Lymington Society is urging Councillors at the New Forest District Council Planning Committee, to turn down the planning application submitted by McCarthy and Stone for yet more sheltered homes that Lymington does not need.

The application for permission to demolish three family homes in Milford Road and to build a large block of 31 sheltered flats is another sign that the previous speculative frenzy of “garden grabbing” from before the recession is back with a vengeance as this is the second application for flats to be built along the Milford Road in the last few months.

The Society believes that the entrance routes into the town along Milford Road and Southampton Road, which are characterised by family homes in decent plot sizes with trees and greenery, is a vital part of the characteristic feel of the town, which we wish to protect.

The Lymington Society was instrumental in helping to frame the Local Distinctiveness Planning Guidance which has proved so essential in helping to prevent overdevelopment and developments that could threaten the special character of the town.

This guidance states that new developments must be in keeping with the character and general feel of the properties already in the area and not change the important characteristics of that area.

We are determined to resist applications such as this one, which seek to demolish good family homes and to build ugly blocks of flats. In this particular case, we feel that the scale and mass of this building is totally out of keeping with this attractive gateway route into the town

Chairman of Lymington Society Clive Sutton will be speaking at the NFDC Planning Committee meeting on the 10th of October to make the point that it is vital that Councillors respect the guidance set out in the Local Distinctiveness Document and turn this application and similar applications down.

Speaking before the Committee hearing on the 10th of October, Mr Sutton said:

“ We very much hope that the Councillors on the NFDC planning Committee take note of the opposition of both the Lymington Society and the Lymington and Pennington Town Council to this totally unsuitable development, and refuse to let this development go ahead.

Not to do so would be to fatally undermine the hard won protections that the local distinctiveness guidance has brought to the town and could encourage similar new developments, which could radically change the character and quality of Lymington in a very short time.

We hope the planning committee will send an important message to developers that this sort of large scale overdevelopment of the attractive access routes into the town is not welcome.

Ends

Don Mackenzie.

Lymington Society Press spokesman.07860 106120