

Submission from Graham Soame

Mr Soame addressed Members and clarified that the development was looking to replace the existing store and convert it into eight flats, supplying local people. He addressed the issues raised about trees, fences and cycle storage and assured the meeting that all windows would remain and no new windows were proposed.

He advised that parking spaces would be provided and the Highways Department had approved the amended scheme. He hoped the development would improve the look of the area and would deliver environmental benefits. Mr Soame reminded Members that there was a housing need which needed to be met and there were a number of people on the housing list requiring one bedroomed accommodation.

Submission from Sue Kench – applicant

Mrs Sue Kench addressed Members and explained that she was hoping to build an ecologically sound and low cost building. She advised that she was having to sell her home due to a relationship breakdown. She was a committed member of the community and worked as a health care assistant at the Eynsham surgery.

Mrs Kench stated that she and her architect had received extensive pre-application advice prior to submitting the application and was therefore surprised when the application was proposed for refusal. Especially as the issue of car parking had never been mentioned.

She had received advice from Steve Sensicle at Carter Jonas who had agreed that the application was policy compliant and should be approved. This was based on the fact that she was seeking to extend an existing building which was already being used for residential purposes. She currently let her property out on the Air B&B site and had been using the parking space proposed for some time.

Mrs Kench concluded by reiterating that there was a need for one bedroom properties in the area.

Good Afternoon,

I am not allowed enough time to tell the committee all the reasons why I, and so many others, object to this application. But I will say this.

The document prepared by the Council's Planning Officer is not fit for purpose.

It misrepresents the evidence and has not given adequate consideration to the objections made by the people who would be directly affected, were it to be approved.

It is selective, referencing only those parts of Council Policy that it meets, while avoiding those policies it contravenes. (e.g. EH4, EH5, EH8 and some clauses in the Local Plan)

The committee should not rely on the content of the planning officer's document to make an informed decision.

This application is divisive to the community and would adversely impact neighbours and especially the older residents of Blenheim Heights.

The application requires robust scrutiny.

Therefore, I would ask, through the chair that members of the planning committee please at least read the objection comments before they make a decision on this application.

I can give examples of the misrepresentation I allege and / or will answer any questions you may have.

Submission from David Bates – Chair of Madley Park Residents Association

Mr Bates addressed members in his capacity as Chair of the Madley Park Residents' Association and explained that the group had worked hard to create new play facilities in the community. He advised that 21.9% of those living there were 0-15 years old and facilities for that age group were limited. The initiative Active8 had been introduced, the public was keen to encourage younger people into activities and there had been a wide community effort to request funding.

Mr Bates explained that the grant from Sports England was subject to the facilities being available for year round usage, hence the need for adequate lighting during the winter months. The Police had also advised that they felt it would be easier to monitor the area with better lighting and in turn this would reduce the levels of ASB experienced in the area. The Residents Association was keen to see regular activities and maybe even a youth club at Madley Park. There had been community wide consultation and the design of the facilities had been amended accordingly. He therefore, asked the Committee to support the application.