

# Comments for Planning Application 13/00832/FUL

## Application Summary

Application Number: 13/00832/FUL

Address: Former Ruskin College Site Walton Street Oxford Oxfordshire

Proposal: Redevelopment of existing student accommodation and teaching site comprising the demolition of all buildings, with exception of the 1913 Ruskin College facade to Walton Street and Worcester Place, and erection of 90 student study rooms, 3 Fellows/Staff residential rooms, teaching facilities, library archive social space, landscaping and associated works.

Case Officer: Angela Fettiplace

## Customer Details

Name: Mr John CLARKE

Address: 105 Victoria Road OXFORD

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Effect on adjoining properties
- Effect on character of area
- Effect on existing community facilities
- Height of proposal

Comment: Speaking as a long-term Oxford resident, I'm dismayed and alarmed to note that the proposed development clearly damages the visual context in which the east aspect of Worcester College stands, and compromises its stylistic integrity. This highly-integrated context includes not only the College but also part of lower Walton Street, Beaumont Street and the Ashmolean Museum. While Oxford is rich in architectural treasures, we do not have much else from precisely this period and of this integrated character. The use of stone from near Bath in this context makes oblique reference to the building of the nearby canal. I believe there is an argument for applying a similar caution here as do the City of Bath regarding the choice of building material. Other the new buildings in the area appear to have applied similar caution.

It is hard to see how the proposed, rather bulky-looking building cannot damage the current Georgian character of lower Walton Street and the adjoining streets, consistent with the OUP building and the building occupied by Freud cafe.

As an Oxford resident, I make frequent use of the College gardens, and I'm most disappointed that the view from the College gardens towards the north-west will be disrupted and it's character lost.