

# 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: Dr. Emily Coit

Address: Worcester College Walton Street Oxford

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbours

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Amount of development on site
- Effect on adjoining properties
- Effect on character of area
- Effect on existing community facilities
- General dislike or support for proposal
- Height of proposal

Comment:

I am an American who has recently moved to the UK from the US. One of the most evident differences between my native country and my present home is that here in the UK, an awareness of and respect for the past that manifests itself in conscientious stewardship of historic buildings and places. This is, frankly, one of the great pleasures of living here. I was surprised and alarmed, therefore, to see the plans for the proposed Exeter College development. The plans express a frankly bewildering disregard for the surrounding buildings and environment; and the proposed structure's incongruous, outsize scale and self-conscious novelty in form and materials express an attitude I know well from my time in American milieux where there is much less pretense about valuing the work the past and often no value at all attributed to the maintenance of quiet, beautiful spaces. If these plans are carried out, the beautiful spaces sensitively maintained in and around the proposed development will suffer significantly. As a newcomer to Oxford, I share with the tourists who swarm the town daily an awareness that the built environment of this place is a treasure of exceptional rarity. Perhaps familiarity has dulled that awareness in those advocating the proposed development. I sincerely hope the Council will remind them that what stands to be lost herethe feel of a fine little neighborhood, the pleasure of assiduously stewarded vistas, the

visibly manifested respect for both the past and the future is not something that can be recovered.