

From: Customer Service [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 April 2022 14:13
To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION BN/16/22/PL

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For the attention of Amber Willard

Dear Sirs

Objection to the proposed development of a row of 4 semi-detached houses in the rear garden of Clare Court ,67 Barnham Road, Barnham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO22 0EP

My grounds for objection are as follows :-

1) Removal of the wonderful garden facility used by the existing 8 apartment holders

I have lived nearby for the last 13 years in this lovely village, and I was acquainted with Robert Macfarlane, one of the previous Clare Court residents, sadly now deceased, and who was an aircraft designer for Imperial Airways and who lived to age 106! I knew Bob as his mobility scooter was serviced by Littlehampton Shopmobility, of which I was the Treasurer and am now the Independent Examiner. It is my opinion that part of the reason for his longevity was because he was able to access the lovely garden for recreation and relaxation, and I am convinced that the other current residents of Clare Court feel the same way, and that it would have an adverse effect on their physical and mental health if this garden was replaced by buildings and a road

At the age of 81, I am very blessed that I have a large garden that overlooks Barnham Primary School Playing fields, and having made my garden disabled friendly by widening the pathways to enable my wife's access on her mobility scooter, I can vouch for the positive effect this has had on her mental and physical wellbeing. It is possible that there are present-day residents of Clare Court with mobility issues, but even if all the flat owners are 100% fit, I am sure they would prefer to enjoy the peace and tranquility of a garden to the comings and goings of the proposed new householders.

My wife and I do speak with some knowledge and experience in these matters, as we are Chairman and Treasurer respectively of Chailey Heritage Old Scholars Association , and have been used to looking after the welfare of our elderly and disabled members for many years.

2) Safety Issues

The proposed access and egress re-arrangements necessitated by such a development would significantly increase the physical danger to residents and other road users, as the number of vehicles using the new driveway will multiply by a factor of at least 2 and possibly 4 or even 5. People will literally put their lives and those of other road users and pedestrians at risk on the already busy Barnham Road. The fact that there is no pavement on the south side of the road is an additional hazard, but moreover, just opposite Clare Court lies Abbey Dean Care Home, whose elderly and in some cases, disabled residents, could be adversely affected not only by the extra traffic and increased pollution, but also by the unmanageable increase in traffic during the construction process, which will make the drop-off and pick up of pupils at our two local schools a total nightmare from a safety viewpoint. There is a footpath which leads from St Philip Howard Catholic Secondary School onto Barnham Road fairly near Clare Court and this development would pretty well preclude and pupils from using this footpath.

3) Illegal felling of trees

The two ancient trees already felled by the Developer were quite possibly under a protection order, and therefore their felling is probably illegal, which would have consequences for the developer. If they needed to be felled to gain access to the proposed development, the Developer should have waited until he received planning permission, and not jumped the gun, particularly as his previous applications have been rejected by Arun District Council as being inappropriate.

4) Area of Special Character.

Barnham Road has been designated an area of special character. This proposal development flies in the face of that designation-the proposal should be rejected as before as being totally inappropriate, and this time, the developer should be given no further right of appeal. It is obvious that the developer has no interest in the welfare of his existing Clare Court flat owners., let alone his proposed new house owners, or the residents or visitors to our beautiful village.

5) Safeguarding

I walked around the back of Clare Court and can confirm that a two storey building situated near the fence overlooking St Philip Howard Secondary School playground and playing field would not only represent an intrusion into the pupils' privacy, but also provide a means of voyeurism by the new proposed residents, and the proposal should be rejected on this ground alone because of the inherent danger to both pupils and staff of the school.

Yours faithfully

Richard J Wilkins FCA
Chartered Accountant