

Our reference: COM600967988

Application number: 2024/0189

Application address: Heath Buildings, High Street, Oxshott, Leatherhead, KT22 0JW

Name: Mrs Korlipara

Address: 1 Midgarth Close, Oxshott, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 0JY

Comment type: You object to the planning application

Date of comment: 29 Mar 2024

Comment: I am writing to formally express my profound concern and objection to the latest Heath Buildings planning application (2024/0189) on Oxshott High Street. Despite the history of submissions, it is disheartening to see that the recent proposal remains largely unaltered, proposing a four-level structure that starkly contrasts with the architectural essence of our village, thereby undermining the character and integrity of our community.

The current proposal conspicuously fails to address the council's critical feedback regarding its excessive scale and massing, alongside the severe privacy infringements to adjacent neighbors. This oversight not only demonstrates a disregard for professional guidance but also highlights a concerning breach of key planning regulations. Such actions adversely impact the village's street scene, significantly reduce light, and compromise the privacy of Midgarth residents, directly threatening the well-being and cohesion of our community.

Moreover, the persistence in overlooking previous objections has escalated tensions, eroding the unity and friendly spirit that our village prides itself on. The proposed architectural changes, including the introduction of an underground car park and the reduction of retail space, present a further disconnect with the community's expressed needs and aspirations. This, coupled with the potential harm to protected TPO trees at Midgarth Close, necessitates an immediate reevaluation of the project's direction and scope.

The recurring submissions have unfortunately fostered a divide within our community, replacing the once-prevalent sense of camaraderie with a palpable atmosphere of frustration and distrust. This situation unequivocally demands a moment of pause and collective reflection, aimed at identifying a path forward that genuinely honors the character of Oxshott, addresses the concerns of its residents, and secures long-term benefits for all stakeholders involved.

In addition, the proposed expansion of the building's entrance and the incorporation of four pillars will encroach upon public space and is starkly out of character with the village ethos. Similar architectural experiments in nearby locales, such as Cobham, serve as a cautionary tale, highlighting the inappropriateness and potential aesthetic discord such structures introduce to quaint village settings.

In light of these considerations, I strongly urge a comprehensive reconsideration of the Heath Buildings project. It is imperative that we engage in genuine, constructive dialogue aimed at developing a proposal that not only respects but enhances our village for the benefit of current and future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter