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Tuesday, 20 August 2024

The Planning Inspector

Major Casework, Temple Quay House

2 The Square, BRISTOL, BS1 6PN

Dear Sir,

APP/C1760/W/23/3342514

Edwina Mountbatten House.

I made a submission to you on the opening day of your Inquiry, and have been in attendance for quite a lot of the time since. I was shocked to find after lunch last Friday that the TVBC planning department had withdrawn from contesting this application, apparently on the basis of incompleteness in their submission.

Having heard and read the arguments being advanced regarding this proposal it seems to be apparent that the appellants have managed to divert your attention from some of the main issues, the most important of which is the suitability of the proposed building to this key location at the entrance to the main access to the town shopping and other facilities. The illustrations provided by TVBC make it very clear that the building is excessive in size relative to its location and as I pointed out in my submission it will also not provide sufficient parking for the likely number of over 55 car owners living there.

As was said in other statements to you, the plan was presented to the TVBC southern area planning committee where there was a large public presence. The committee unanimously rejected the plan and the result was warmly welcomed by the public present.

I also pointed out that this location was significant in relation to the work in progress on the south of Romsey Town plan, and it was really an unfortunate matter of timing that the Trustees closed the care home at the time they did, thus making it difficult to include the location in the town plan, which is obviously what should happen.

In the absence of the much needed plan, the least that we can expect from this present process is that any plan you approve should take full account of the height and style of the surrounding buildings in Palmerston street. The present submission by Churchill certainly does not meet this standard, so I would like to ask that you refer it back for further consultation to meet these standards.

Yours faithfully,

Alec W Fry FCA