



The Friends of Abingdon
Civic Society

Re application for planning consent:

P12/V0634/ZZZ, 22 Appleford Drive, Abingdon

This application has already raised a great deal of concern among neighbouring residents in Appleford Drive and Welford Gardens with respect to the harm to the residential and visual amenity that the proposed development will cause. Appleford Drive and Welford Gardens form part of one of the estates built in the mid-1950s to house Harwell employees. The three- and four-bedroomed houses in this estate were specifically designed for families and are set in a pleasant open-plan environment with, unusually for the 1950s, adequate provision for off-street parking. As such, this estate is not only a pleasant place for families to live but is also a part of the history of Abingdon.

Although the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society is mindful of the need for affordable homes in Abingdon, we do not believe that conversion of a family house into four very small one-bedroom flats is appropriate in this estate. If permission is granted for this conversion, it will set a precedent for the future with the possibility that within a few years this pleasant community of family houses will be changed beyond recognition with the proliferation of multi-occupancy housing with no continuity of occupation. Also, it may be difficult to prevent this type of development in other areas including Fitzharrys Manor estate.

Others have commented on the problems that are likely to arise involving access, parking, increased traffic, noise, and visual amenity, and we do not intend to repeat their well-presented arguments here. However, we fully support these comments.

Therefore the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society request that planning permission for this development is denied.

May 2012