

**Re: Application P14/V0078/DIS**

**65 Oxford Road, Abingdon, OX14 2AA**

The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society is horrified by the complete clearance of the site at 65 Oxford Road, Abingdon, in contravention of Condition 7 in the decision on Application ABG/16669/3 and Condition 2 in the decision on Application P13/V0221/EX, both of which refer to the demolition of the previously existing dwelling and the erection of two new dwellings. Both these decisions state unequivocally that the trees on the site should be protected in the interests of visual amenity. Indeed, the following statement is made in the Officer Comments in the Committee Report for Application ABG/16669/3:

‘Existing trees on the site that positively contribute to the locality will be retained and will be supplemented by new planting. As such the proposal will not harm the sylvan character of Oxford Road. Consequently, the visual impact of the development and its effect on the character and appearance of the nearby conservation area are considered acceptable.’

Why, then, have the developers removed every tree and shrub, apart from the boundary hedges, from this site? One of the reasons that Friends of Abingdon did not object to the original application (ABG/16669/3) was that the tree-lined character of Oxford Road would be retained. Even if the developers replace the trees they have grubbed up, it will be many years before the new trees reach sufficient maturity to fill the unsightly gap which now exists.

Friends of Abingdon requests answers to the following questions.

- Why are the developers applying for retrospective permission for something which they have already done in the full knowledge that it was in direct contravention of the conditions laid out in the decision to grant permission?
- Were planning officers consulted before the site was cleared?
- If so, why were the developers allowed to do this, in contravention of what had previously been approved?
- If not, what penalties will be imposed on the developers?