

## **Plans Inspected – January 2011**

### **Block Garage Sales**

The Committee viewed the various garage sites that are to be developed for “affordable” housing. As the ratio of garages occupied is low it seems sensible to use the land for housing. However, parking areas such as those in **Wymer Street, Stafford St/Belvoir St and Exeter St/Orchard Street** should not be used for building; they provide much-valued car parking in tight inner-city areas. Development would mean current residents would have to park in nearby narrow roads, causing congestion problems.

As a committee, we generally approve of the designs, though they are safe without much inspiration on the whole. The Wymer Street plan is completely inappropriate, being designed for Douro Place, a modern estate, rather than the Victorian cottagey feel of Wymer Street.

### **10/01868/A – 21 & 21A St Giles’ Street**

*Display of externally illuminated fascia signs and door sign*

We feel these signs are unsuitable in a Conservation Area; they are glaringly white with very utilitarian lettering.

### **10/01926/F – Parish Hall & Vicarage Garden Site, Little John Road**

*Redevelopment of part of site with 8 No houses, 2 No bungalows, new vehicle access, parking and landscaping comprising of trees, hedges, wall, fences, paths and bin stores*

We consider this a very basic, dreary development of an interesting site. It has so much better potential than this.

### **10/02001/NF3 – Castle Gardens, Castle Meadow**

*Erection of 2 No covered canopies over the stage and central sweating area of The Whiffler Theatre*

The structure is good-looking, but the bright blue colour is not suitable; it should be a more subtle, neutral shade.

### **10/02007/F – Flats 1 – 31 Helgate Court, 35 Westwick Street**

*Replacement of timber framed double glazed doors and windows with uPVC and GRP window/doors*

These windows appear to be sound and not in need of replacement. We have strong objections to this proposal, as the original window design is an important and integral part of the building. The proposed replacements are of a completely different design, and will ruin the aesthetics of the building.

*NB - (Committee members to also send personal objections to this scheme)*

**10/02062/L – Octagon Chapel**

*Demolition of air raid shelter (ca 1940) in east curtilage*

It is a shame to lose this historic war time building after so long; can it not be removed and rebuilt in a suitable museum?

**10/01816/O – 28 Mousehold Lane**

*Erection of residential care home with associated car parking and landscaping*

In general this appears to be a good scheme; we would like to be kept informed as to its progress.

**10/02101/F – Car Park (corner Douro Place), Wymer Street**

*Redevelopment of site to provide 4 No two bed flats*

Wymer Street is a modest, narrow cul-de-sac of small Victorian terraced houses, much loved by its residents for its privacy and sense of community. A number of houses have multiple occupancy and therefore several cars per household. Residents are not at all happy at the prospect of losing these well-used parking spaces; access and turning are already difficult. The style of the proposed flats is not at all in keeping with the street. At a recent public meeting attended by representatives of the Norwich Society residents objected to the loss of parking if these plans go ahead and are not convinced that there is adequate parking elsewhere – especially late at night.

They also object to the mismanagement of the proper consultation procedures : inadequate postal notification, mis-naming the site, hurried and poor consultation – all of which have been admitted by the housing department. We object on the same grounds.

**10/01988/F – The Beeches Hotel, 2 – 6 Earlham Road**

*Erection of extension*

The plan was sketchy and badly drawn. Proper visualisation is needed for this important site. The drawing provided gives the impression of a very standard extension and does not make best use of this sloping site next to the remarkable Plantation Gardens, and just below St John's Cathedral.

**10/01937/F – Tombland**

*Installation of a solar powered pay and display (taxi marshal) machine*

The associated signage should be kept to a minimum in this historic area.

**10/02178/L – Ferry Boat Inn, 191 King Street**

*Alterations and extensions to the listed building and removal of curtilage buildings to provide a 150-200 bed backpackers' hostel.*

We still strongly approve of this scheme; it will provide much-needed accommodation in a historic quarter, and make good use of the riverside site. Aesthetically it is a great improvement on many of the massive, ugly new blocks of flats, and will ameliorate their appearance by providing a fitting waterfront façade.

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