

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014

### UPDATE SHEET

#### Item 6

14/00531/FULM – 36 Clarendon Road

#### ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

- i) The following representation has been received from Cllr. Helen Lynch:

“I wish to object to this application as it continues to be an overbearing building that is not in keeping with the adjacent conservation area. Its development would have a negative impact on the residents who live in Gartlett Rd (and the top end of Estcourt) because of the overlooking aspect on to small private gardens and into resident’s windows, as well as an increase in traffic.

The building has local historical significance and as such should be retained. There is also the other matter of it being identified by the Dept of Education as a site for the St John’s free school opening in Sept 2015. Whilst this was not considered at the initial hearing as a justifiable objection, it is vitally important to the local community that there is a site that can accommodate a junior school in Central Ward, as potential sites are extremely rare.

On this basis I wish to object to the application and would like my reasons to be made known to the planning committee.”

- ii) A letter of objection has also been received from Fr Stevenson of St John’s Parish Church in Sutton Road. Extracts from his letter are copied below:

“Firstly, there is a great concern at the overcrowding of people in this area and the significant impact that extra people living in such a large multi-resident complex, as is proposed will have on traffic, parking and most importantly, education and health provision in Central Ward. It raises the serious question - at what point will the quality of life in this Conservation Area become an unsustainable place to live if we continue to pack more people into our community without any thought for education, health and transport needs that a development like this will inevitably bring?

“Secondly, as you may be aware, the Parish of St John’s in partnership with the Diocese of St Albans and the local parents of Central Ward are planning on establishing a new Church of England Primary School in the heart of our

community opening in September 2015. This is not just an idea, the school is a registered company with a Board of Trustees that is now moving into what the Department for Education calls the Pre-Opening Phase. We are now waiting for our final Interview with the Department for Education in mid-July, before being signed off by Michael Gove the Secretary of State for Education.

“Once again I would like to say that I strongly object to this development taking place on behalf of myself and many of the people in my parish and community who are worried about the further impact large imposing residential developments will have. Such developments will only increase demand on existing school provision. Please help us to open a school to help educate our children who live in Central Watford, our biggest worry about opening this much needed school is a suitable location that is within walking distance for central Watford residents. Without new school places being created parents are being forced to drive their children further and further out of central Watford for them to get an education. I acknowledge the need for further housing but we also need for plan for school places for the children that we have and will live here.”

- iii) Four other letters of objection have also been received. They raise the same objections as those summarised in the committee report but specifically the loss of the locally listed building.