

Miss Valerie A. Freeman  
Hall Flat  
10[B] The Mount  
St. Leonards-on-Sea  
East Sussex  
TN38 0HR

18<sup>th</sup> September 2009

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

21 SEP 2009

AQUILA HOUSE

Borough Planning Officer  
Hastings Borough Council  
Aquila House  
Breeds Place  
Hastings  
TN34 3UY

Dear Sir/Madam

**Hastings College Redevelopment**  
**Application No. HS/FA/09/00482**

Regarding the above proposal, I feel this is highly unsatisfactory.

This is a Burton St. Leonards area of architectural interest.

Yes, the college application was approved and subsequently built, but without much foresight to the future.

Parking in the area and particularly The Mount is atrocious with insufficient spaces for residents. 'Residents only' paid parking was introduced to prevent student parking, but seemed to have little effect - almost sensing when the Traffic Wardens came round. The wardens now seem to be in the habit of driving round The Mount before 8.00am; BEFORE the restriction time of 8.00am.

The parking restriction was 8.00am-8.00pm Monday to Friday. It was proposed by HBC it be changed to 9.00am-6.00pm seven days weekly, in line with parking throughout the town. This did not happen due to objections. But there is no guaranteed parking place.

It is doubtless whether that restriction will continue with the proposed development. The average household can have as many as three cars - parents and adult child. With the development proposed how on earth can there be sufficient parking?

Currently cars park on the pavements outside the college, with no room for pedestrians let alone push chairs etc. Pavements are ruined needing repair, and are, but nothing is ever done about moving these cars and if anything is said to the drivers, there is nothing but abuse and inappropriate finger signals. This situation will be exacerbated, but with building vehicles and even more damaged pavements. More expense to the rate payers.

With the closure of the archway in Maze Hill, due to a lorry going into it, HBC feeling it not feasible to repair, rerouted the traffic and has naturally increased in this area and will continue to do so if the development is undertaken. In the meantime there will be the problems of contractors vehicles, both during the demolition, and then construction.

The building[s] no doubt contain asbestos. Has any thought been given to the effect of this on the area and particularly the local inhabitants. This could result in many claims on the Council in future years by victims. These in turn the residents of the Borough would be responsible for funding.

I am very concerned by the wanton destruction of the tree life. It takes nearly a lifetime for a tree to be replaced - doubtless they won't be. That would also cause disturbance [and distress] to wildlife in the area.

Little thought has been given to this project and even less notice of the proposals [probably already decided like other ventures in the town]. It gives residents and other interested persons little, or no, opportunity to raise objections. Deliberate?

It will be a very sorry state to the area if this goes ahead. Such housing development could be erected on the old bathing pool site, now derelict since falling into the hands of the Hastings Borough Council [more the pity]. The redevelopment of the college site could be then be returned, as much as possible, to its original state pre the current college building being erected.

I am Hastings born and bred and resident in The Mount since January 1970.

As a matter of interest, are ANY of the Councillors, and others, on the Planning Committee real local people, ie born and bred here, for they seem to have little regard to what Hastings & St. Leonards is, and represented in the past.

Yours faithfully



Valerie Freeman  
[CONCERNED RESIDENT]

Copies to      Councillor Jeremy Birch  
                    3 Undercliff Terrace  
                    St. Leonards-on-Sea TN38 0DH

Mr. Michael Foster MP  
Hastings & Rye Constituent  
84 Bohemia Road  
St. Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6RN

Mr. M. Heffernan  
[for The Mount Residents' Association]