

Re: Application ref. 2019/93284.

We strongly object to the proposed conversion of the United Reform Church into 6 flats on a number of grounds.

Road safety/Parking

The entrance and exit from the chapel driveway is hazardous and the increased number of cars potentially using the drive would be associated with a significant risk to traffic coming up and going down Chapel Hill and Church Lane, as the road there is very narrow and it is a blind spot due to the brow of a hill. It is often quite tight if a bus is passing. In addition, the parking allocated to the flats is completely inadequate – one car per flat is not a realistic assessment of the number of cars that 6x multi-bedroom apartments would attract. There would most certainly be additional cars, and there is absolutely no space for safe parking on the road side in the immediate vicinity of the church, especially considering that this is a major bus route.

Noise, exhaust pollution and light disturbance

We chose to purchase our house due to the quiet location, but if the plans go ahead, there would be a disturbing increase in noise as a result of the new dwellings. With 6 large flats, this is a significant amount of people going in and out of the properties and producing noise. The proposal for the living accommodation to be at the rear of the property is a particular concern in this regard. Furthermore, the associated vehicles, which would be driving into the parking places, would produce significant increase of additional noise.

In addition to the noise, there will be increased light disturbance with car headlights shining into our property as they drive up and down the proposed driveway and in and out of parking places and also potentially dangerous exhaust fumes. Furthermore, the proposed location of the wheelie bins may result in additional noise and odours and potentially vermin encroaching on our garden.

Privacy

We believe that our privacy would be significantly compromised as a result of the proposed new windows of the church. These will overlook our house and garden

We specifically chose to purchase our house, to avoid being overlooked.

In summary, we do not feel that this is an appropriate use of this building for the provisional reasons we have provided. The proposal is completely inconsiderate to the dwellings that are adjacent to the current church building with respect to privacy and noise, and would result in a significant traffic risk in the immediate vicinity. We feel that if this plan was to go ahead we would see a significant depreciation in the value of our house. a desirable place to live, but would be far less appealing with flats overlooking our dwellings