

Planning Dept.,

Waverley Borough Council,

The Burys,

GODALMING. BY EMAIL

Dear Sirs,

Outline Planning Application 2017/2296

Longdene House, Haslemere.

Noting that this is only an outline planning application the Society makes the following observations :

A report is submitted and referred to as a Building Condition Report. We consider that this is in no way a condition report. It is merely a list of improvement works that someone has prepared without any demonstration that such works are necessary. There is no description of the existing condition or defects. Also the costing of the work amounting to some £3m would seem exceptionally excessive.

One of The Haslemere Society’s aims (and indeed that of any civic society) is to preserve and enhance the character and heritage of our town. Longdene House is a significant piece of the town’s character and heritage and the Council should be seeking convincing evidence that its demolition is actually necessary. This evidence has not been provided and the Conservation Officer’s assessment should be sought.

Any current owner’s neglect of the building should be taken into account and due consideration also given to its possible conversion to flats.

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A further observation is that the aggregate amount of residential development in the vicinity of Longdene House will significantly increase the traffic using the narrow Longdene Road and its difficult junction with Lower Street which needs careful consideration.

We are assuming that this attractive Victorian Building, typical of Haslemere housing construction in those times and part of our heritage, is not listed (subject to confirmation). We feel that subject to an inspection this property should receive serious consideration for local listing and we request please that it is brought to the attention of the WBC Officer responsible for local listing for a report before determination of the application.

It is understood that a Local Authority can make a preservation order for a property threatened with demolition, should this be a realistic measure to take. We are mindful of the loss of Great Stoatley and Lythe Hill Park many years ago and would want to avoid such further loss of Haslemere’s heritage.

Yours faithfully,

John Greer ( Vice Chairman, The Haslemere Society)

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