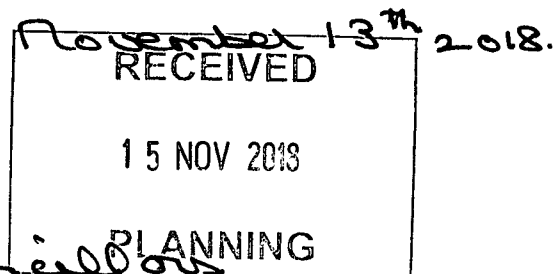


North Dorset Planning  
Dept.,  
South Walks House,  
Dorchester.

2 Dolphin Cottages,  
Peacemash,  
Gillingham.  
Dorset.  
SP8 4EU.

R. 2/2018/1437/FUL.

St Martin's, Queen St.  
Gillingham.



Dear Planning Officers & Councillors,

Because I had already written to Mr. Mark Osborne, Senior Estate Surveyor and also encouraged people to sign the petition against the demolition of St. Martin's House as a town councillor I was unable to take part in the discussion of the planned development at Gillingham Town Council's planning meeting. This plan should have been treated differently and Gillingham should have been consulted before this stage.

I realise that this plan was to benefit North Dorset as a whole, not just Gillingham. Gillingham Town has, in fact, a large number of bungalows and older people's residential facilities, mostly which are excellent. Some people think that this plan is in excess of what Gillingham needs. I am, myself, nearly eighty years old so

understand the needs of the age group.

Gillingham has a large need for social housing but not just for the elderly.

Could St Martin's House not be renovated i.e. not changed, but have more maintenance to retain the structure and be used for social housing for younger people who cannot afford high rental charges. I realise there could be a problem mixing the younger element with the development of the rest of the site for the elderly but with sympathetic landlords caring this may be able to be achieved.

St Martin's House is a heritage asset to the Town and is mentioned in our accepted Neighbourhood Plan. Queen St and St Martin's Square are part of the most characterful areas of our Town and deserve special treatment.

Regarding the plans as they appear on line, I wish to make

Comments -

- 1) Part of the site is a flood risk as stated & there is a flooding objection. There may be significant surface water problems if this is not carefully addressed. We do not need flooding in the central part of the Town.
- 2) The present design of the block of flats is ugly, almost prisonlike and I should hate to live in such a

building. It certainly does not fit in with the local area which has old houses of character and an attractive church.

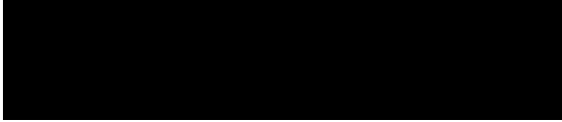
3) The ecology report (which is excellent) St Martin's House is a significant bat roost. Should it be demolished it will be difficult because bat officers would have to be present to make sure the bats are correctly treated and an European licence to be applied.

The work would have to be at a suitable time of year because of the temperatures needed to safeguard the bats. The development would be detrimental to the bat population.

The extensive work involved in the development could harm the slow worm population in the area.

If I had taken part in the meeting I would have voted against the plan. It needs to be changed and re-submitted.

Yours sincerely

 (Mrs).