

Subject: Application 2/2018/1437ful St Martin's, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4DZ.

Dear Committee Members

We understand that the above application has recently been on the agenda of Gillingham Town Council, and will be shortly considered by Dorset Planning Department.

As owners of the adjacent property, Lime Tree House, we have reviewed the latest documentation and plans. Although we accept that the new plans are more sympathetic to the site than the previous design, there are still a number of important issues that we would be grateful if the committee could give serious consideration to.

1. The electricity sub station is currently positioned in the corner of the adjoining wall very close to our house, and abutting the boundary wall which is IN THE CONSERVATION AREA. From the site plan it looks as though it is approximately 4m x 4m which is very large: it is only 9 metres from the back corner of our Grade 2 Listed house. The substation would impinge on the view from our property, and create undue noise. Therefore we would request that this be moved to an alternative site away from the listed house, wall and the boundary of the conservation area.

2. We now realise why the proposed building seems smaller than before! This is because the new plans have only two stories on the street side (west elevation), but three stories on the south side where it looks over our garden. This would have a detrimental impact on the current view from our garden and the view from the town centre. We would be grateful if consideration could be given to lowering the level of the eastern end of the development to avoid this. It could have a further advantage in that it reduces the number of steps from the building for elderly residents.

3. Document 6732/15 Senior Conservation Officer specifically mentions concern regarding the bricks and tiles to be used in the building's construction, and para. 3 mentions our boundary wall. (Please note that we already have a legal agreement on the repair of this wall, only part of which has been completed by Dorset Council). We were slightly alarmed to see the wall described on the site plan as being constructed of brick, when it is clearly constructed of stone and is an integral part of the historic fabric of the listed property at Lime Tree House

This is a very large development, which we believe does not sit happily on this site, and we trust that the Planning Committee will ensure that every effort is made to protect St Martin's Square and the historic and listed buildings adjoining it.

Yours sincerely

Jim and Kate White
Lime Tree House
Queen Street