

Cllr. Jackie O'Quinn

BH2018/01738 - Land to rear of Lyon Close

22/08/2018:

Representation against planning application BH2018/01738

I have received numerous emails and phone calls from residents in the area objecting to this planning application, which relates to 163 flats being constructed plus some office space on the site known as Lyons Close. The main objections which residents have are over-development, height of some of the blocks, loss of light, lack of car parking facilities and general impact on local amenities such as doctor's surgeries, local schools etc. I myself have put forward these points every time that I have met with Crest Nicholson regarding this planned development. I have argued that 5-6 stories is high enough for this area, any more stories and this development will be seriously out of character with much of this heavily residential area, I have also pointed out that there is a serious shortage of parking spaces in the area and major issues regarding the capacity of the Charter Medical Centre, particularly after it had to take thousands of patients from the Goodwood Court Surgery when that was closed down by inspectors. I am glad to see that some points were taken on board, such as removing the block of flats that lay along the side of the railway line but more could have been done about the height of the blocks. Crest Nicholson are also offering 40% affordable housing which can be considered admirable if it weren't for the fact that I doubt they will be affordable to most local people, as has been seen with the Artisan block of flats built at the entrance to Lyons Close by Crest Nicholson, where the price of flats is so high that hardly any flats have been sold.

I support the local residents very strongly in their objections and I also have a lot of sympathy with Howden's as I agree that they will find it difficult to find other suitable premises in Hove. This could be an exemplary development if it were for a lesser number of flats with the highest block being 5 or 6 blocks high. It is an unattractive development – quite lumpy in style and I fear no amount of landscaping will cover up that fact. None of the residents object to this area being developed but they want to see a proportionate development that is in sympathy with the local area.

I reserve my right to speak on this issue to the planning committee.

