



Dear Sir or Madam,

Although it is only an EIA request, planning application/letter RU17/0369, concerning the proposed Egham Gateway Phase 1 development, is causing considerable concern to the Egham Residents' Association.

A letter from the Quod company accompanying the application, says that the development would include two blocks of student bed accommodation "reaching a maximum height of seven storeys".

This is the first we have heard of this. The recent annual general meeting of our association included a presentation on this proposed development given by a representative of the council, and there was no mention of its including buildings of such a height. So, we were shocked on seeing this application, given that the maximum height among the other buildings in the area is one of four storeys above ground.

The Quod letter contends that the site "is not located in a sensitive area". We strongly dispute this. Indeed, the Quod letter makes such a claim despite acknowledging that "the site is located in Egham Town Centre Conservation Area and there are two listed buildings adjacent to the site boundary, with a further number in close proximity".

The proposed development seeks to introduce high-rise development into the Egham town centre, and that would inevitably have a big - and detrimental - impact on its character. As the Quod letter also acknowledges, the site largely contains two-storey buildings. The same can be said of the town centre as a whole.

The Quod letter also contends that the development would have "no more than localized effects, many of which would be managed through the use of standard and well-tested forms of mitigation".

As we contemplate the Quod comments, we are not sure whether to laugh or cry. The Quod letter reads to us as if it were written not merely by someone who has no understanding of Egham but by a visitor from a different planet.

Yours faithfully,

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