

Members, it was my great privilege to be on the Site Viewing Working Party when this extraordinary House, Outbuildings, garden and land came to the DMC in 2018. We were given a tour of the house, the incongruous office block added in 1983 with its brick and glass corridor link to the main house, and the glorious garden and grounds that contain trees of heart stopping beauty. Outline Application was sought with all matters reserved for the demolition of the office block and the glass link, but what we were presented with was only an indicative plan of what was proposed. There was no doubt that some trees and overgrown undergrowth would have to be removed but the scale of this application and the resulting loss of 200 year old Oaks and unusual other specimens of great beauty and importance were part of a plan to remove over 100+ trees that could never be replaced. I have no objection to the development of the house which is listed and whose conversion will be under the guidance of the conservation officers, as will the historic outhouses, but this is not the site to build up to 70 houses on. This is probably one of the most prestigious site that the Borough has and every attempt should be made to lessen the build and preserve the grounds for the people of this Borough. Of course this is about business and making substantial profits and providing housing for our residents, but at what cost. The Council already declared that no trees must be cut down until all the tests required, and surveys required have been completed. This proposal is therefore far too premature to be considered and should at least be postponed until we have an All Matters Reserved Agenda in place.

I beg you all and Vivid and Bargate Homes not to destroy what can never be replaced.
Thank you.