

-
>

Sent: 05 June 2026 10:27

To: Davies, Catrin <Catrin.Davies@reading.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to planning application PL /26/0620

New Road is mainly composed of artisanal houses. They are unpretentious and inhabited by the likes of artists, architects, musicians, composers, conductors, poets, teachers, nurses and librarians. In earlier times there were biscuit bakers, a tin man, a brazier, a wheeler, a tailor, a brick layer and a painter. No two houses are the same.

Has the owner of this building plot or the architect read Adam Sowan's book A Quiet and Intimate Road? If not perhaps they should have and we wouldn't have had 5 previous applications for building on this tiny plot of totally unsuitable houses.

New Road has never needed or wanted executive houses such as the one suggested for Plot 1a.

The plot that we are discussing was part of the garden of Yew Tree Lodge. One of 3 large corner houses, now used for patients who need to lead stable and quiet lives in the community and indeed they enjoy quality garden time which will be taken away from them and will no doubt be disturbed by the building works.

Who decided where the arbitrary fence was erected dividing the garden?

The New Road community has always cared for their gardens, trees and the wildlife, sharing their knowledge with each other and using local help where possible.

The bats still circle around our garden at around 10pm and the fox comes for water followed by the rustling under the hedge by the hedgehog. We have a good variety of birds. Nuthatch, Sparrows, Goldfinch, Thrush and more. I have a list.

Are we to lose this precious wild life?

In no way is this plot large enough to support an executive type house such as the various ones that we have been shown over the years. And this is such a poor design that it certainly won't enhance the conservation area.

What happened to simplicity?

I am unable to see that 1a is to be built in line with New Road houses or that the off road parking space will be used. It's much too tight.

Why knock a hole in an historic wall which I doubt will be large enough to accommodate building lorries let alone a family car?

The walls in this conservation area are a strong part of it and need preserving not knocking down. Indeed, in the early nineties the University was given permission to extend St. Georges Hall but NOT to access it via New Road through the wall.

When our family arrived in New Road in 1976 numbers 1, 3 and 5 had a virtual single back garden between them with no division.

No 1 grew vegetables in neat and tidy rows.

No 3 grew flowers and fruit and had one well.

No 5 had 3 wells (one remains), evidence of a rubbish tip and a privy at the bottom of the garden.

Adam Sowan remembered evidence of a path/ drive between 3 and 5.

Gradually no 1 built a wall between 1 and 3.

A small fence was erected between 3 and 5 but it still has an open feeling.

My point is that plot 1a could work as a community garden with community support.

This plot just isn't large enough to support a family house . The design just isn't good enough to be in this conservation area, which the residents have protected for so many years.

I hope that the Planning Committee turn this plan down and enable us to preserve this conservation area for many more years to come, for the enjoyment of the inhabitants of Reading and the preservation of the wild life.

Jean Thomas

5, New Road.

RG15JD