

**From:** Simon Chivers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2022 15:12  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** S62A/22/0000002

Please find below some comments on the proposed redevelopment for the former Friends school in Saffron Walden:

- Firstly, really good to see that something is being done with the old school building.
- My first concern is around road / vehicle access to the site from The Avenue. The Avenue is a small road which provides access to the many houses/flats off The Avenue. The road is usually only 1 lane as many of the occupants of the apartments park cars on the road or the frequent carers / visitors to those residents use that road for parking. So more traffic on that road would rapidly cause issues, especially if used during the redevelopment of the site and once completed if used for residential road access to the new Chase development. Clearly this would be bad for the current residents and far from ideal for access to the new homes. When the site was a functioning school, the only access to the school was via Mount Pleasant road, no vehicular or even walking access was permitted to the site via The Avenue. So my very strong recommendation would be to open up the site from The Avenue but ensure that Chase make vehicle access only from Mount Pleasant rd, something they will have to do for the rest of the development anyway.
- My second concern is the impact of knocking down the recently purpose built primary/junior school buildings, that were built as part of The Hills development of The Avenue. Surely it doesn't make any sense to demolish a new purpose built educational facility in the middle of a town undergoing significant new house building and growth with many new families and children. It is also a clear environmental mess to demolish such a new building and replace with new houses. Surely new houses on the site can be accommodated without demolishing this facility and the purpose built school buildings used for the purpose they were intended? If not for a school purpose, then groups such as Scouts in Saffron Walden currently have really limited space for meetings and would benefit considerably from access to such buildings. So I would be hopeful that along with turning a significant profit for Chase, that Saffron Walden could also benefit here.

Best regards,

Simon Chivers

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