

URGENT

ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL DEMOLITION

'What is the point of having conservation areas if we demolish buildings like these'



New applications have been submitted by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, to Brighton & Hove City Council, for Planning Consent to demolish the buildings of the former Royal Alexandra Childrens' Hospital, Dyke Road.

The applications can be viewed online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk (planning register) or at City Direct Council Offices.

Objections should quote the references BH2007/04453 & BH2007/04462, and be sent in by 25th January 2008.

The Montpelier and Clifton Hill Association considers the old Royal Alexandra Hospital buildings to be of unique value to the city and the area. We are asking residents to write or email to object to the planning application for demolition.

The main buildings were designed in 1881 by the respected architect Thomas Lainson. He used brick, Reading Tilework and glass, in the Queen Anne style, with pretty detailing and 'pepper pot' roofs. The feasibility of converting the existing buildings into dwellings and a doctors' surgery should be fully investigated before any decision is made. Landmark buildings with character and charm such as this will never be recreated. Too often they are replaced by bland uniform structures, as proposed in this planning application.

How to object- some suggested reasons for objection: These historic buildings are a major asset to the conservation area. Many Brighton residents have memories of the buildings and the treatment received there. The Pickford's Depository in Holland Road and the Hove Hospital are good examples of similar buildings that have been converted for housing. The feasibility of converting the buildings to residential use should be made without regard to the developer's purchase price of the site. The stone and brick walls fronting the garden make an attractive space in Dyke Road. The Council is encouraging sustainability but demolition would waste building materials and require replacement buildings. Demolition and rebuilding would cause much traffic, noise and disturbance to residents of the area. A modern building on this site would have more flats than a conversion of the current building, causing more traffic and pressure on local services.

Please object quoting the references BH2007/04453 & BH2007/04462 by email to: sue.dubberley@brighton-hove.gov.uk, or by post to: Sue Dubberley, Planning Officer, Brighton & Hove Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 3BQ. If you send a copy to us at info@montpelierandcliftonhill.org we will contact you with news about the planning applications.

(our website is www.montpelierandcliftonhill.org)