

For the attention of Owen Fayers, Planning Officer

Planning application – DC/24/01103 Knowle House, Church Square

Bures St Mary CO8 5AB (Former Chambers Bus Depot)

Dear Sir,

Bures St Mary Parish Council called an Extraordinary Meeting on 6th April to give residents the opportunity to discuss the revised plans for the former Chambers Bus Depot.

It was agreed that the overall design of the dwellings which reflects the maltings style of a nearby Listed Building is an improvement on that previously proposed in the application DC/22/00754 in 2022. The revised housing mix also better addresses the needs of our growing community.

However, specific concerns were expressed by householders living adjacent to the site. Some residents have already sought clarification and reassurance from the developers and the Babergh Planning Department regarding specific issues concerning individual properties. The Parish Council suggested that further on-site consultation between the developers and the residents living adjacent to the site would be advisable.

The owner of a property in Friends Field which backs onto the site asked that it could be confirmed that the required distance between his property and plots 10,11, and 12 has been observed. The loss of privacy and overlooking resulting from the dormer windows on the first floor of the almshouses was also raised.

The holding objection lodged by Place Services was noted. The owner of The Doctor's House on the High Street raised the absence of green shielding to the north of the site to reduce the impact on the adjacent Listed Buildings as a matter of concern.

The owners of Willow House, which is immediately adjacent to the site, have requested an on-site meeting to discuss their anxiety concerning the loss of residential amenity. They would also like to clarify the situation regarding the management of their boundary wall and an established willow tree. The Parish Council supported this request and understands arrangements for this to happen are now in place.

In addition to seeking further consideration of the residents' concerns as stated above, the Parish Council requests reassurance that the public utilities serving the village will have the capacity to maintain their services with the proposed increase of 14 dwellings and one commercial unit.

The absence of any comment on the Planning portal from Suffolk County Council Highways has been questioned. The Parish Council suggests that there should be further discussion between the developers and the Highways Department to ensure that the proposed amendments to Bridge Street (B1508) and Church Square will provide the safest arrangement possible for all non-motorised and motorised road users with the minimal loss of street parking in what is inevitably an already very challenged environment.

Yours sincerely, Bures St Mary Parish Council.