

APPLICATION NO: 14/01928/FUL	OFFICER: Mrs Lucy White
DATE REGISTERED: 23rd October 2014	DATE OF EXPIRY : 22nd January 2015
WARD: Pittville	PARISH: PREST
APPLICANT:	Uliving and University Of Gloucestershire
LOCATION:	Pittville Campus, Albert Road, Cheltenham
PROPOSAL:	Erection of a student village incorporating 603 new-build student bedrooms, the refurbishment of the existing media centre (which will include a reception/security desk, a gym, retail facilities, multi-faith area, refectory and bar, quiet study area, laundrette, ancillary office space), and the provision of a mixed use games area. In addition, the proposal involves the demolition of existing teaching facilities, 23 existing rooms and the retention and refurbishment of 191 existing student rooms.

ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

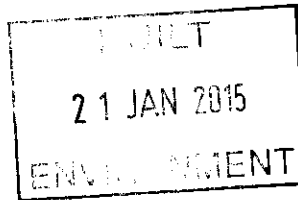
191 Alstone Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 8JA

Comments: 21st January 2015
Letter attached.

5 Elm Court
Hillcourt Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 3JU

Comments: 21st January 2015

I object due to the size of the buildings and volume of additional accommodation and the impact this is going to have on my residential area. The proposed site is going to have a massive impact on noise and traffic. Although I believe students aren't supposed to have cars on site inevitable some will bring them and park where they can. There will also be additional buses and taxis to transport the students. I am already subjected to noise from buses sitting with their engines running! Albert Road during rush hour will become a real bottle neck. I along with other residents in the area have been disturbed during the night by students returning to the Campus after a night out and this is only going to get worse with the significant increase in students staying at the Campus.



191 Alstone Lane
Cheltenham
Glos, GL51 8JA

20th January 2015

For the Attention
Martin Chandler
Team Leader
Development Management Applications,
Cheltenham Borough Council
Municipal Offices
Cheltenham
Glos.

Dear Mr Chandler,

Application number 14/01928 – University of Gloucestershire Pittville Campus Development

I am writing with regard to the above numbered and named Application which goes in front of Planning Committee this week. Whilst I appreciate this is a last minute submission, nevertheless I would wish Members of the Planning Committee to see this letter, given the varied aspect to my comments.

I have waited until the report was published in order that I could read it in an effort to make balanced comments which I hope will assist Members during their deliberations.

Growing up in Cheltenham, the importance of the Borough Motto, and the ethos behind it was instilled in us at School, and I have watched from the side lines as part of the post 16 Education has progressed from being two separate Teacher Training Colleges, of great repute, into one College, and then achieving University status.

I am totally dismayed at the perception of student behaviour. Cheltenham has always welcomed students, and has benefitted over the years from having them as part of our community, and as one of the former County Councillors for the St. Paul's community, and a former Police Authority Member, I know from the public meetings I attended over the years how the perception can be at polar opposites to the reality. I do not believe statistics will bear out comments indicating that all antisocial behaviour lies at the door of students.

I also know how hard the University work within the Community by creating University Liaison Groups, with membership drawn from housing officers, borough and county councillors, residents and police officers holding regular meetings where problems, or perceived problems can be discussed and resolved. The University has always been open to being approached, and I am sure that they would set up a similar Liaison Committee specifically for the Pittville Campus, in the same way that St. Paul's and The Park Campuses have benefitted by having these in place.

The difficulty today is the lack of accommodation on offer from the University. New students have the right to expect to be housed in good surroundings, and in warm, safe, modern accommodation. The education they undertake costs them around £9,000 a year in fees, and they expect that their initial applications will include the availability to be housed on a Campus. When this is not available, they have to look to housing within the community. The

downside to them finding houses within the community is the overall knock on effect to families within the community. There is a serious housing shortage for families because of the snapping up of housing, and turning it into multiple occupations by landlords who can envisage more profit from students than from families.

St. Paul's is already a student village – the difference between that and Pittville is that students are living next door to families, not within a campus. That being said there has been a tremendous community benefit offered by the students.

It is not just within St. Paul's that students are living, they are spread across the town, and they make good neighbours – but it is a two way process, we need to be welcoming to them, and they will respond the same way.

I believe it is detrimental to suggest the overall amount of accommodation on offer at Pittville is too high. Our town needs to continue to attract students for the University to thrive, and whilst others will have reinforced the message about economic benefits of students being here, I have to say that I agree there is not only an economic benefit but also the vibrancy that they bring with them. The vision of the building as one drives past it at this moment in time is dreadful – students deserve purpose built accommodation, and this is what the University is intending to do.

I am dismayed at the way some of the benefits our University offers are not promoted more. In the St. Paul's area, we were pleased to work with the students in the Edible Garden – a piece of land given to the community so that students and families could work together growing fruit and vegetables, and this ongoing project brings our community closer together – and by that I mean the students and the families in St. Paul's.

The students put great efforts into helping to design safer streets – softening the views by extra planting of trees – offering up great designs as to how the little streets round and about could be enhanced by a variety of ideas – all of which triggered tremendous discussions between everyone.

Street Watch in the St. Paul's area would not have survived without the volunteering of the students, and continues to thrive with their help.

Their volunteering in local schools, the bus service which runs between the various campus – open to the community to use as and when they wish, the welcome the University provides for community members to visit the Campus events all reinforces the message that our University is woven through the very fabric of Cheltenham, and deserves our support as they go forward. The list of where you find students entwined in Cheltenham lives is endless, and the University Staff and Senior Members are also heavily involved in a variety of aspects across the town – not only involving education facilities, schools and such like, but also helping to shape plans for growth and economic sustainability in Cheltenham, and the County overall.

I do believe that the current plan in front of you has taken into account comments during various consultations, efforts have been made to listen and alter plans to alleviate concerns and I totally support the application by the University without any further reservations.

Yours sincerely,

