

Residents Fight For Traditional Homes

Angry residents are to appeal to Wiltshire's planning councillors to go against their officer's recommendation and throw out a controversial application.

They have already explained to Warminster Town Council why new plans submitted for two detached houses on land to the rear of 12 and 12a Westbury Road are totally unacceptable to them. Unlike the two conventional gabled homes, which had been given permission a year ago and were in keeping with the existing properties, the new scheme is for contemporary homes.

The re-designed four bedroom homes of two to three storeys have a flat roofed modular design and use a mixture of pre-rusted Corten steel and render finishes.

Town councillors agreed and unanimously recommended refusal to Wiltshire Council saying the design was completely alien to the surroundings and looked out of place.

It came as a shock to resident Ray Taylor when he discovered that Wednesday's Western Area Planning Committee had been recommended to give the homes permission.

The officer's view is that it would be difficult to justify a refusal because of the design, as the National Planning Policy Framework 'favours innovation and originality' and the homes are in a modern development outside any protected area and largely hidden from public view.

Ray, who lives in Westbury

Road said: "It beggars belief that the councillors have been recommended to accept this and it has incensed everyone involved.

"It's outrageous that because they will not affect the main street scene everyone's views about the design are being ignored."

He is also concerned about the resiting of the houses meaning that an eight metre concrete wall would be just four metres from his glass garden room.

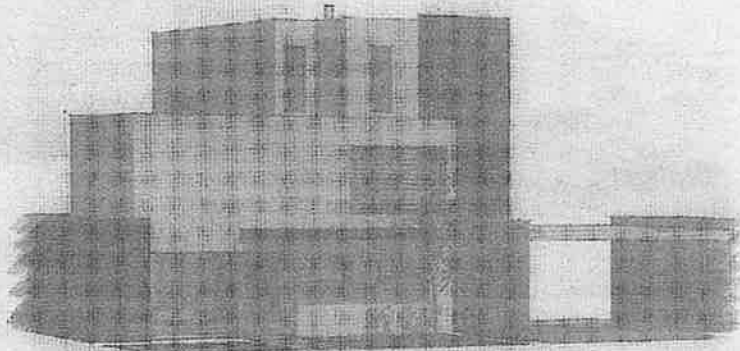
Warminster Town and Wiltshire Councillor Pip Ridout had requested that the committee consider the application rather than a decision being made by the officer and Ray is going to go to the meeting to explain again why he thinks the application is unacceptable.

He added: "I hope as many people as possible will come to the meeting to show the strength of feeling against this application."

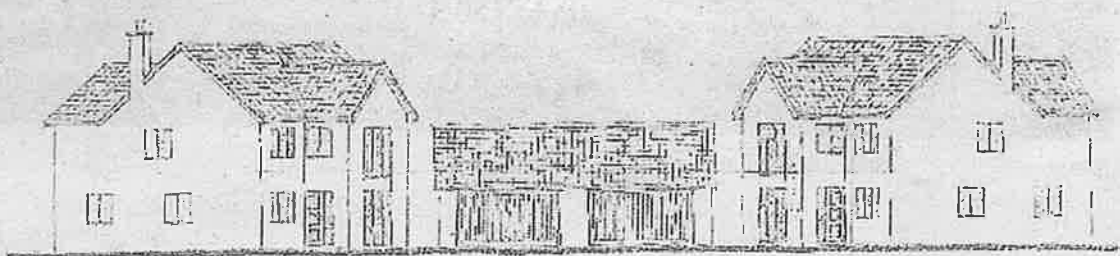
Pip Ridout who will be addressing the meeting said, "I will be vigorously fighting the proposals and want to see the houses designed and positioned as in the original planning permission. This is far more sympathetic to the area.

"I hope that councillors will be willing to go out on a site visit to see why people are so concerned before making any decision."

She added: "Another option would be to re-site the house which is so near to Mr. Taylor's house and ask for the design for both homes to be revised to make them more in keeping."



One of the proposed flat roofed modular houses



The original design for the gabled homes