



Respecting the past, shaping the future

***Press release from
Suffolk Preservation Society
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Swedish flavour must be retained in Suffolk village

A housing association's plans to demolish ten Swedish timber framed homes in a Suffolk village must be sent back to the drawing board say campaigners.

Influential environmental group the Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) say the old homes in Bury Road, Stanningfield, add character to the village and contribute to its attractive landscape.

Housing association Havebury has submitted plans with St Edmundsbury Borough Council for a new 24 home development, which would see the timber-framed houses disappear.

If the plan gets the go ahead it is believed Havebury will own nearly 40 of the 150 homes in the village, which the SPS say is too much.

The Society is also concerned that the new development would not be sustainable due to a lack of parking facilities and public transport in Stanningfield.

Richard Ward, Society Director, said: "The urban town houses being proposed are quite wrong in this village setting.

"We would like to see greater effort made to harmonise housing to its environment, which in this case, is a distinctively rural one.

"This proposal smacks of computer aided design churned out with no attempt to consider landscape or local architecture."

SPS says councils need to consider the housing balance they are seeking to achieve in small villages and the levels of transport, school and infrastructure provisions likely to be available.

"We recommend that this scheme is sent back to the drawing board for one more compatible with the needs of Stanningfield and its residents. We would

also question the need to redevelop when restoration seems to be a very real possibility in this case.

“We understand and support the need for more affordable homes, particularly in rural settings, but we feel more consideration needs to be given to the environment and local character before developments such as these are given the go ahead.

“We need to think about quality as well as quantity.”

Note to editors:

SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county’s buildings and landscape. Today, the Society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk’s future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county’s communities.

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