



Respecting the past, shaping the future

Press release from
Suffolk Preservation Society
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Society's plea to protect Suffolk's heritage

Environmental campaigners hugely concerned by proposals for a Tesco supermarket in the heart of Hadleigh's conservation area have urged planners to secure more information about its potential impact before discussions are taken further.

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) last night said it was currently impossible to assess the full affect the 3,000 sq metre store would have on some of the town's most historic buildings as specific details justifying the application were missing.

They also warned the plan, earmarked for the Brett Works site, failed to take into account government policy designed to preserve and enhance the character of specially protected conservation areas.

The application, which will be discussed by Babergh District Council, also seeks permission to alter the town's listed Iron Bridge and demolish historic Bridge House to make way for an access road.

But the society said planning guidance which had since been superseded had been used in a bid to justify the demolition, while key assessments on its impact had not been carried out.

SPS has now pledged to independently employ a specialist structural engineer to complete this survey, should it prove necessary.

"We believe that a number of fundamental questions arose as soon as this application was submitted, and many still remain unanswered," said Richard Ward, society director.

"The society feels that some vital information is missing, and the proposal cannot be properly considered while that is the case. We would urge Babergh to ensure these gaps are filled before this matter goes any further."

Mr Ward said the society also shared the deep anxiety of local residents over the impact the proposal would have on a cherished market town – especially as it falls within a conservation area, which the government states should be protected.

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"Hadleigh has a special and distinct character, and we have grave concerns about the massive affect which this proposal would have," he added.

"The Brett Works site, and more importantly the entrance to it, falls inside the town's conservation area and, in our opinion, the proposal contradicts government planning policy which states that developments in these areas should work to preserve or enhance their special character.

"We feel must do all we can to protect these areas, which are an essential part of Suffolk special's character and should be preserved for the future."

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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.

For more information please contact:

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