

2023 Report of the Planning Sub-Committee

In 2023, the most prominent planning application related to the Debenhams site. The SDC gave Consent with Conditions for some amendments to the Listed Building Consent which had already been granted for demolition of the store and construction of a hotel. At the earlier stage, the Stratford Society had submitted strong objections to the proposal, but these subsequent changes were minor and, while we did not object, we emphasised the importance of retaining existing historical fabric. The planned date for demolition at the end of 2023 has now passed, but a new date has yet to be announced.

The Society did, however, raise objections to two new applications, on neither of which a decision has yet been taken. The first of these seeks Outline Planning Consent for housing on the site of Chutney's Orchard, Bordon Hill. We argued that development of this site was not part of the Council's Core Strategy, would be detrimental to vistas to and from Shottery and Stratford, and would add further to traffic congestion along Evesham Road.

The second application relates to the proposal for construction of an apartment block in Windsor Street on the site of the former Stratford Picture House. The Society submitted objections relating to the scale of the proposed building, which would not enhance the character and quality of the area, and would be adjacent to the proposed Gateway Project. Here we were in good company with a number of heritage organisations which took the same line as the Stratford Society.

In the case of a number of applications of concern to the Stratford Society dating from 2022, consultation on these closed many months ago but, to date, they have not come before the SDC's Planning Committee. We shall continue to watch closely for any developments.

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Planning Officer