

The International Importance of Welwyn Garden City



Professor Eugenie Birch

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She has commented as follows on the proposed scheme and the international value of Welwyn Garden City:

‘Welwyn Garden city is a world-renowned example of the brilliant and innovative planning developed in the United Kingdom at the turn of the 20th century. Important as it is for responding to the issues of its times, it also must stay up to date to remain exemplary. Thus, the change of land use in the industrial sector to residential is appropriate and compatible with the original plan.

However, the proposed project at 233 units/hectar is well beyond the 75units/hectar of the current town plan. Approving this excessive density would not only place damaging stress on the town’s infrastructure and open space but also put an indelible negative mark on the town itself. It would signal unwelcome disrespect for a global monument to superb town planning.

Please consider a better designed, lower density project that would be more compatible with its surrounds.’

Professor Eugenie Birch, June 2022