

Observation Dundrum Old Shopping Centre site.

Reference N0 313220

Walter and Carol Newburn, 10 Frankfort Park, Dundrum, Dublin D14 VW50.

We, Walter and Carol Newburn came to live in Dundrum in 1973 from Co Cavan and Co Cork. The present shopping Centre was only 2 years old then. We have lived in the area since then and made a home, raised a family here.

The Main Street then had a mishmash of shops which gave the street great character. The butcher was still there. It was possible to buy fish, vegetables and most of our everyday needs in small shops on the main street. There was a supermarket too, so we had a choice. There was a beautiful line of about 20 large trees separating the site and the street, all sadly now cut down in their prime.

We are dismayed by the plans submitted by Hammerson/Allianz for our village and consider that they will destroy what is left of the heritage buildings.

No buildings on the Main Street should be demolished. It is not enough to retain part of Glenville Terrace. These buildings give character to the area and anywhere else they would be treasured. The developers say that these buildings are “in a poor state of repair” – the irony is that much of this happened under their watch.

Surrounding Glenville Terrace with repetitive high apartment blocks is not going to be aesthetically pleasing and will destroy the charm of the street. We know the developers can do better – just look at Ashgrove Terrace. These plans show a lack of respect for Dundrum’s Heritage and streetscape.

A development of this size should provide a balance of residential, office, retail and leisure elements.

It is very disappointing that there is such a density of apartments. There are too many unoccupied apartments in our area already, either because of high rents or maybe they don’t meet people’s needs. High rise, high density of people with insufficient amenities will create an area with high social problems.

As the development will be built on a podium, all trees and plants will have to be small with restricted roots.

Many people in this area have to travel elsewhere in the county to office accommodation. There is no office accommodation provided.

The reduction of retail outlets in the new development is regrettable. It will not be a good place for local independent businesses.

The buses and Luas in the area are at full capacity at peak hours and will not accommodate all these other apartments. With Thousands of new apartments planned for Dundrum Rd area it is no good counting cars per minute – they are mostly sitting in a traffic jam!

An 8 year building plan will foul up the whole area for that time.

This area has already endured the roadworks for the M50, ancillary roads, Luas Bridge building and the Dundrum Bypass.

Civic, community and cultural facilities are neglected in this development.

Dundrum has grown from a village to the second town in the county but we don’t think a high rise Manhattan style cityscape is appropriate in this area.

