



**you
said...**

...on the Independent Living Scheme designs for Houghton Regis

In April 2016 we held an event to showcase the designs for the planned Independent Living scheme in Houghton Regis. This was the first time the designs were seen by the local community.

At the event, you gave us lots of useful feedback. Overleaf is an overview of some of the comments to show you what we have been working through when coming up with the final design to be submitted for planning permission.

You can visit the website
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/independentliving

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Your thoughts on the design

'Impressive' was a word used a lot. You liked the modern vision, appreciated us keeping architectural features like the Red House and liked the balance between old and new. You saw it as a good opportunity for local business that would attract life to the town centre. You were pleased with the consideration for the context and concerns of local people. You loved the idea of a roof garden and saw it as an opportunity for older people to continue doing the things they love.

Your concerns about the design

You shared your concerns about parking and road safety. In particular, you asked whether people would start to park in Whitehouse Close, especially if shops are included in the design, and whether the current traffic management on the High Street would work.

You worried about vulnerable residents walking through and from the site to town centre shops too, both in terms of road safety and fears of anti-social behaviour. You also asked questions about the cost of the apartments, the colour of the roof, whether it fits in with the character of the town and where the current recycling area would be moved.

Your suggestions and ideas on the design

You wondered whether more types of garden space could be included in front of parking areas. Other suggestions included changing the secondary access points to fire exits only, to reduce traffic onto Whitehouse Close; making changes to the colour and modern nature of the building, especially the part that faces The Green; and some ideas about how parking issues could be prevented.

Your comments about the event

You said that you found the event useful and well organised. We want you to be part of the process so it is good to hear that you felt included in the consultation and events, and that you feel your feedback is being taken on board.

People attending the event said that the scheme was "brilliant", "absolutely amazing and very exciting", "very good, tastefully done" and "what the area needs". You thought the design was well thought out and had high hopes that it would help regenerate the High Street area.

What's next?

We intend to submit the planning application in the summer and are busy working on the plans until then.

If you have any more feedback, please email us at independentliving@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Once the planning application is submitted, there will be a statutory consultation on the plans to give you another chance to share your views.