The Victorian Group of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society
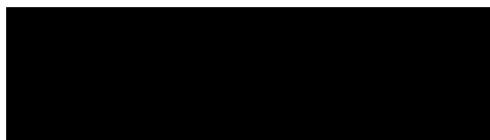
127 Banbury Road

Oxford OX2 6JX

The Head of Planning Control and

25,2,2021   Conservation

Oxford City Council

Dear Sir,

21/00278 – 1 Northmoor Road

We wish to make the strongest possible objection to the demolition of the conservatory. It may not be contemporary with the house, but it would seem to have been built very soon afterwards, probably c.1900.

It has very attractive glazing in an unusual pattern. The upper panes have coloured motifs. Above is a particularly charming cast iron cresting. The tile floor must also be original.

We note that this conservatory is adjoined by a almost identical one on the next-door house, and that the cast iron cresting is continuous. This is most uncommon.

The proposed rear extension is a dismally unimaginative design, and would in no way compensate for the loss of the conservatory.

We wish to emphasise that, although conservatories were characteristic features of houses in North Oxford, a considerable number have been either demolished or substantially altered in recent years. We cannot afford to lose another. There is regrettably little, if anything, about conservatories in the Conservation Area Appraisal. This is despite our having included the following in our comments on the draft.

Conservatories are obviously important and characteristic features of the area, but too many have been lost or replaced with inauthentic paraphrases. For a conspicuously bad example, see 9 Norham Gardens, but another is 34 Leckford Road. At 143 Woodstock Road a fine free-standing conservatory was destroyed on the absurd ground that children from the neighbouring school might injure themselves. Before the matter was settled a Council officer started to dismantle it for re-erection at his own house.

We had pointed out that, since this was written, what was left of the particularly interesting conservatory at 9 Norham Gardens, a Listed Building, had been completely demolished.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Howell (Secretary)