

Greater Cambridge Planning,  
South Cambridgeshire Hall,  
Cambourne Business Park,  
Cambourne,  
Cambridge  
CB23 6EA



**Cambridge Green Party**  
603 Newmarket Road  
Cambridge, CB5 8LG  
[contact@cambridge.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:contact@cambridge.greenparty.org.uk)

Dear Greater Cambridge Planning,  
Regarding planning application: 20/04514/FUL

I am writing to object to the proposal from Federated Hermes for a six storey accommodation block on the north side of St Matthew's Piece. This is a beautiful city park in an area which has very few nearby parks, and also contains a convenient and well used children's play area (it is a long distance to the next closest one). The park is ideal for all kinds of residents nearby - plentiful areas under trees, a well designed children's park with areas for both very young and older children, numerous park benches, community engagement (as evidenced by recent bulb planting initiatives with support from Cambridge City Council and On The Verge Cambridge) and exercise facilities free to all.

The proposal in no way enhances the area's character, and does not fit the scale of the residential area (the scale is 2+1 storeys). This puts it in breach of Local Plan Policies 23, 46, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60 & 61.

The height in comparison to the trees would cause overshadowing and overlooking of the residential houses nearby, and of the park itself, which would harm the ambience and quality of the park, and negatively affect the character of the park, and the appearance of the Conservation Area, open space and trees. This is again in breach of Local Plan Policies 14, 23, 58, 59, 60 & 61.

There is a significant lack of open public space in this part of Cambridge (north Petersfield ward and the west component of Abbey ward). This proposal will detract from the little open space this area has, and affect negatively the trees in this area. As before, these are in breach of Local Plan Policies 14, 23, 58, 59, 67 & 71.

I (Hannah Charlotte Copley) have lived on Occupation Road, which is 200 metres away from the corner of the St Matthew's Piece for five years, and found the park to be a wonderful corner of nature that is well used by residents of all ages and demographics. The London plane trees are very mature and provide a respite of heat on summer days, that is not found in other open spaces nearby (such as Midsummer common). It really is the highlight of the neighbourhood, and due to the low traffic of the roads adjoining it is very secluded. A tall building of the type described in this proposal would transform the park very negatively, blocking out light, impacting on the trees, and not contributing to the lack of housing that Cambridge faces by only delivering student accommodation.

We would approve of the land being used for purposes that are beneficial to the community, for example a community centre, outdoor seating areas or an extension of the park itself.

Yours sincerely,  
Hannah Charlotte Copley, Matt Howard, Jeremy Caddick and Naomi Bennett on behalf of Cambridge Green Party.