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To: Planning

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Full Name: Fiona and David Maybrey

Address:

7 Branksea Close
Church Road

Representation:

Re planning applications P-15-066; P-15-067; P-15-068

As residents of Branksea Close for the last 17 years we wish to register our opposition to the above plans.

1. The house is being used for multiple occupancy but we had assumed that this was a temporary arrangement, especially as it has not been fully used by the hotel for the last two seasons and no change of use had been sort. We feel that the permanent loss of a family home would be detrimental to the islands.
2. This area of Hugh Town is already densely occupied with many of the former family homes being converted into flats or pulled down to make way for building new flats. The local amenities of water and sewage are already under strain. The sewage out flow frequently, (every 6-8 weeks) backs up causing distress and needing attention.
3. Last year we had occasion to visit the house several times to complain about the noise in the early hours of the morning, the police were informed. If there are the number of people proposed living there by sheer density the volume of noise will increase. Branksea Close is a peaceful place where the residents respect the bed times of the younger members of community.
4. The garden, which up until it became part of the hotel portfolio was well kept and productive, will be a great loss to the local wildlife, it is part of a nature corridor. No mention is made on the plans of the capped well in the garden. How can buildings make the appearance more pleasing than the mature fruit trees, shrubs and hedges that grace the area. Two trees, an apple and a bay have already been destroyed along with part of the hedge adjacent to the path into Branksea Close apparently without permission.
5. On a practical cocern emergency services such as Fire and Ambulance cannot reach Branksea Close, how would they reach the two blocks proposed for the garden.
6. We cannot make out from the plans just where the access to the blocks would be. Branksea Close is a safe area where all the residents know each other, should the access be through the Close this feeling of safety would be compromised.

7. The plans also still show the old Branksea House garage not the disabled extension to number 8 Branksea Close. This would make block 1 very close to that property.

Whilst we fully understand that staff accommodation on the islands is in short supply, so is local housing, we do not feel that this is the best or right use for the house and land at Men-a-Vaur.

Fiona and David Maybrey