

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 November 2023 17:46
To: Policy Consultation
Subject: Gateway Masterplan

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Hi

I understand that it is unclear to the population of Stratford as to what is to happen to the St Gregorys Hall on Henley Street as part of the Gateway plans - the answer that the frontage is to be retained, leaves the question as to what will happen to the building itself (we all know Hotel Inigo only retained the walls!). If there are any demolition plans for any part of the building, I want to express my extreme dismay that any part would be destroyed. The building has beautiful character than would not be replicated in a new building, BTP is the best coffee shop in town and very importantly, the Catholic Church in Stratford very much needs to maintain its source of income from that venue - a compulsory purchase order would genuinely be disasterous for the church when incomes are falling.

Whilst I agree that that general area of Stratford is pretty ugly, I don't think these incredibly expensive plans are going to generate a substantial change to the fortunes of Stratford (that would only be brought about by a reversal of the Brexit laws on EU students needing passports) and it is potentially a huge vanity project with little gain. What the town needs is recreational activity areas for our tourists and locals alike, and some form of nightlife beyond restaurants (the council has really killed it). We absolutely do not need any more cafes or restaurants - they are not full enough anyway, and there are already loads.

Removal of public vehicle access down Windsor Street, is also of major detriment to the town's residents, and would make already very busy roads even busier, and slow down journey times across town substantially. As a parent with kids who need transporting around, we regularly use this route to get around Stratford. Please, please, please think of the residents and not just the tourists.

Perhaps if the local authorities were to focus on improving the road surfaces (terrible first impression as every roads has serious potholes) and the recreational activities available in the town, this is what would improve first impressions - no-one remembers a town for its cafes, we already have tonnes of Shakespeare stuff (which has been very badly run since the pandemic) and RSC presence, what we need it something new and extra. The new extra "je ne said quoi" that Stratford becomes known for, as a go to place.

regards
[REDACTED]

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