

Traffic fears over care home proposal in Thanington

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A planned 64-bed care home would be overbearing and cause parking chaos in surrounding streets, fear parish councillors.

Thanington members are raising their concerns following the submission of a planning application for the multi-million pound property in Cockering Road.

They say the scheme originally presented to them before the application was lodged was three-storeys high, but now appears taller and their worries about inadequate parking have not been addressed.



The planned new care home in Thanington (1176096)

Parish clerk Roger Cheesworth said: "The duty of care to local residents of Manor Close would be ignored by the city planning department if this application is granted.

"Access to their homes will be badly affected by the chaos of having a four-storey development placed among two-storey houses, with inadequate parking facilities."

Mr Cheesworth said that when planning consultant Gillings came to its parish meetings to discuss the plans, members complained about the lack of parking spaces.

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"They came back with two more drop-off spots and said it was the maximum amount they were allowed by the county council," he said.

"But with 80 staff and 64 rooms, even if you have a third on duty and a third of residents having visitors, you need 46 to 48 spaces."

Mr Cheeseworth said it would inevitably lead to parking spilling out into surrounding roads.



The care home has proved controversial (1176098)

"The height would not be acceptable in among two-storey houses and the rooms on the south side of the building will overlook Manor Close and block out sunlight."

He added that another care home already formed part of the Thanington Park housing scheme.

But managing director of Gillings Planning, Anna Gillings insisted the building would be a maximum of three-storeys.

"We have worked closely with the city and county councils and neighbours to prepare the scheme, and agreed the level of parking with the KCC.

"We have also amended the scheme to change the location of windows and remove the potential for overlooking the adjoining property."

She also says the state-of-the-art building will help meet an acute shortage of care beds in the area and bring social, employment and environmental benefits.