

'Tenterden doesn't need more retirement housing'

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A plan to build retirement apartments in Tenterden has been branded "opportunistic" and an example of "profiteering".

High Street resident Ady Maylam plans to go into battle for the second time against housing firm McCarthy & Stone who are proposing to build on land off Smallhythe Road, near Tesco.

The businessman first came across the retirement developer when it put in a bid to demolish the Collina House Hotel in East Hill, Tenterden and replace it with 22 flats.

Mr Maylam lived in Beacon Oak Road at the time and his home backed onto the site. He embarked on a dogged campaign to get the scheme defeated, which included launching a petition, tweets to McCarthy & Stone and even travelling to the firm's Bournemouth headquarters to demand a meeting.

The Collina House development was finally rejected by Ashford Borough Council in December last year.

Last Thursday McCarthy &



An image of the McCarthy & Stone apartments planned for Tenterden

Stone held a public exhibition of its latest plans for the Smallhythe Road area, which involves a proposal for 36 one and two-bed retirement living apartments, with landscaped gardens and 25 parking spaces.

Residents and businesses were invited to view the proposals at The Pavilion at Tenterden Rec-

reation Ground but Mr Maylam blasted the proposals and said: "Tenterden doesn't need any more retirement housing and we already have Tent 1 coming up that will have housing for the over-55s."

"McCarthy & Stone are planning to throw up a huge building. I feel that they didn't get permission to build at Collina House so they are just trying another bit of land.

"This piece of land [off Smallhythe Road] has always been available so I don't know why they wanted Collina House before. It's opportunistic and it's about profiteering."

The 36-year-old added: "Tenterden does not need this scheme. Just how much more development can this town take?"

It is the second time the businessman has found himself squaring up against the retirement developer as his new home in the High Street lies within the consultation area.

MORE DETAILS

People who were unable to attend the public exhibition or would like further information can call McCarthy & Stone's freephone information line on 0800 298 7040 or see the website www.mccarthystone-consultation.co.uk/tenterdenRL

Mr Maylam said: "McCarthy & Stone tried to build by my first house and now they plan to build near my second. I thought I had got rid of them but I was wrong."

"Although I would not suffer as much from these latest plans I'm not going to stand by and see other residents affected."

What do you think? Write to Kentish Express, 34-36 North Street, Ashford, TN24 8JR or email kentishexpress@thekmgroupp.co.uk



Ady Maylam who is campaigning against the demolition of Collina House Hotel and the building of retirement flats

Picture: Gary Browne FM331271

REDEVELOPMENT OF SITE 'WELCOMED'

A spokesman for McCarthy & Stone, said: "The exhibition was well attended, with about 60 residents and stakeholders visiting to view the preliminary plans, discuss the proposals with members of the project team and provide feedback.

"The initial feedback received has welcomed the redevelopment of the site with specialist accommodation for people in later life, with a number of respondents recognising the suitability of the redundant site for this form of housing in the area.

"It is important that a community meets the housing needs of all its residents.

"This development would

provide local older people with the opportunity to downsize while still remaining in the area, which will free up family homes for the younger generation.

"This proposal offers a significant opportunity to contribute towards meeting the current and projected needs for specialist housing for older people in Tenterden."

"It is important residents should have the opportunity to stay close to their home town and their family.

"This specialist retirement accommodation will help satisfy a specific local need for older people, which has been acknowledged by the council."

SPACE FOR 'THE RIGHT DEVELOPMENT'



Tenterden town councillor Sue Ferguson said she would welcome the McCarthy & Stone scheme. She said: "Personally I think there is always going to be space [in Tenterden] for the right type of development. Older people often don't want houses, but prefer apartments with security and we need to cater for them. I went to the public exhibition and I think it looks like a nice scheme and I don't think McCarthy and Stone will have any trouble selling the apartments if they went ahead."