

Planning Department
North Hertfordshire District Council
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
SG6 3JF

17 August 2025

Re: Planning Application by Origin Housing: Replace all existing fenestration. 1 – 9 Spencer Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 4RS, Ref 25/01810/FP

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to formally comment on the planning application submitted by Origin Housing regarding the proposed replacement of windows at 1-9 Spencer Way, Letchworth, SG6 4RS.

We understand from the Design and Access Statement that Origin incorrectly believes that Spencer Way falls within the Letchworth Conservation Area and that this has led them to propose replacing the existing wooden window frames with wooden frames, against our wishes.

We would like to raise two key points:

1. Misunderstanding of Conservation status

It appears that Origin is operating under the false impression that the entire Grange area of Letchworth is within the Conservation area. This is not the case. Spencer Way is unusual in having wooden window frames – most flats and houses on the Grange estate have PVC window frames.

2. Objection to wooden window frames proposed

We absolutely support the need to replace the existing windows with new windows and frames. We have in fact been urging Origin Housing to do this for many years, as the frames have been rotten for years, causing problems with mould and poor insulation, especially in the winter.

However, we do not support the plan to install wooden-framed windows. Wooden windows are significantly more expensive to maintain, have a shorter lifespan than PVC alternatives,

and are less energy efficient. Modern PVC windows can be manufactured to closely replicate the original style and appearance, without compromising on durability and sustainability, or insulation.

We strongly prefer PVC window replacements, which would be more practical for residents. We highlighted this in October 2024 in response to the Notice of Intention issued by Origin at that time – please find attached copy of Elizabeth Hancock’s email at that time, and the response from Carolyn Reece from Origin.

We are therefore dismayed to discover that Origin have issued plans for replacing the windows with wooden frames again. They did not let us know that they were going to do this, or that they had now put in a planning application.

We respectfully request that the Council takes these concerns into account and does not grant approval for wooden window replacements without further clarification and community consultation. To re-iterate, we absolutely do want the windows to be replaced, but with PVC, not wooden frames.

We would appreciate if our objection could be recorded and made publicly available on the Council’s planning website.

Yours faithfully

Mihaela Dulama

Ciprian and Andreea Dulama

Sara White and Jonathan Sheerin

Lindsay Secombe

Eamonn Coughlan

Kevin Conheeney

Hannah and Albon Shala

Elizabeth Hancock

(Residents at 1-9 Spencer Way)