

Garden in the sky plans unveiled but locals think it's a 'monstrosity'



Adam Smith Monday 12 Feb 2018 7:26 pm



The hanging gardens of Hemel Hempstead are controversial (Picture: Lumiere)

If the future is green, then Hemel Hempstead will be heaven after plans for a giant shrubbery in the sky were revealed.

Boxmoor Forest is a 14-storey building housing 435 homes, a tennis court and wine bar – and as a bonus, it's as eco-friendly as can be.



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However, residents living near the proposed development have branded it an 'oversized monstrosity' and 'laughable'.

The Lumiere Developments Ltd application has received 69 responses, with 68 of them objections.

One wrote: 'It is not at all in keeping with the area and dwarfs nearby properties. The design is unattractive – covering it in greenery doesn't fool anyone.'



The Boxmoor Forest development will be one of the most eco-friendly apartment blocks ever built (Picture: Lumiere Design)

The site is currently used by a Kwik Fit garage and a Mitsubishi showroom.

Solar panels and an on-site geothermal plant with a biomass boiler that incinerates waste would help provide energy for the 191 studio apartments, 179 one-bedroom and 65 two-bedroom flats.

However, local residents are not impressed.

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Pauline Hughes, a project manager at an engineering firm, told **The Daily Mail**: 'They have the nerve to label it Boxmoor. It's a tower block opposite a village moor.'

Flats are estimated to range from £217,000 for a studio to £524,000 for three bedrooms.

A spokesman for Lumiere Developments said: 'We strongly believe that overall benefits of this scheme in terms of housing and amenities will outweigh any perceived negatives that the people have in relation to this development.'