

Epsom Civic Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

2 Leighton Way
EPSOM Surrey
KT18 7QZ

22 January 2015

Mr Mark Berry BA(Hons) MRTPI DMS
Head of Planning and Building Control
Town Hall
EPSOM
KT18 5BY

Dear Mr Berry

PLANNING APPLICATION 14/01410/FUL
THE COMBINED COURTS SITE, ASHLEY ROAD, EPSOM
CHANGE OF USE OF THE PROPOSED MEDICAL CENTRE

This application is to change the use of the parts of the new development allocated for a medical centre on the grounds that NHS have failed to provide the necessary funding and the proposed use cannot therefore take place. It follows a similar proposal (12/01255/FUL) which was refused and dismissed on appeal.

In dismissing the earlier application the Inspector considered that there remained a realistic prospect of the Ashley Centre Surgery occupying the premises and that any benefits of the alternative housing use did not outweigh the loss of the intended community uses.

A major issue is therefore the present prospect of suitable funding for the medical centre and evidence will no doubt be offered by the centre's advisers. We understand, however, that current active exploration of sources of funding may be nearing a conclusion and a decision to permit another use would be most unfortunate.

Although it is now nearly twelve months since the Inspector's comments in his appeal decision, and the continued NHS delay is to be deplored, we believe that it is still "premature to put the opportunity for the relocation at risk by allowing residential use of the floorspace", and we consider that the application should be refused.

Yours sincerely

ALAN BAKER FRICS
Vice Chairman

cc Ward Councillors

