

# Epsom Civic Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

2 Leighton Way  
EPSOM Surrey  
KT18 7QZ

10 November 2015

The Planning Inspectorate  
3/20 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6PN

Dear Sirs

PLANNING APPEAL APP/P3610/W/15/3132610  
THE COMBINED COURTS SITE, ASHLEY ROAD, EPSOM  
CHANGE OF USE FROM MEDICAL CENTRE TO RESIDENTIAL

This Society is the local amenity society for Epsom, founded in 1959 and with a current membership of some 2000. Our aims include the protection of the environment and the encouragement of high standards in planning and development.

The application being appealed was for the use of the part of the Courts development reserved for a medical centre to be changed to residential. The policy basis for the reservation is described in the reasons for the refusal of the application and you will be aware that the Development Management Policies Document has now been adopted by the Council. This Society's objection in our letter of 22 January will be with your papers but a copy is attached for your information.

The reasons for the dismissal of the previous appeal are still valid. There is still an unmet need to accommodate this inadequately housed Ashley Centre surgery in the town Centre; robust efforts are still being made to achieve their transfer to the new premises; there still remains a reasonable prospect of them occupying the premises; this Society is well aware that there is strong support in the community for the move; the approval of the present application would place the proper housing of the medical practice in grave danger. The sole reason for the occupation of the premises not having been taken up is the delay by the NHS in allocating the necessary funding and we are aware that this is being vigorously pursued.

Whilst we realise that the NHS delay is causing problems for the developer of the property as well as for the practice, we remain of the firm opinion that permission for the change of use should not be granted and that the appeal should be dismissed.

I am sending three copies of this letter as requested and shall be pleased to receive a copy of the decision in due course.

Yours faithfully

ALAN BAKER FRICS  
Vice Chairman