

Epsom Civic Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

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Our Ref: ECS/RHA/16-01

Dear Mr Berry,

15/01851/FUL & 15/01852/ADV: The Ebbisham Centre 7 The Derby Square High Street Epsom Surrey KT19 8AG. Erection of a canopy structure, feature seating and landscaping in Derby Square together with High Street entrance feature.

The Society's committee considered this application at their meeting on 10th May. The committee was unanimously of the view that proposals to enliven this important part of the town centre were very welcome and greatly to be encouraged. Views differed quite widely regarding the style and design of the various elements of the rebranding proposals, but there unanimous concern was voiced about two matters.

Firstly, the planters proposed as a means of relieving the unattractive flank walls of some of the surrounding buildings are an excellent idea. However, the longer term practicability of these depends hugely on consistent and regular maintenance and watering and we wonder what assurances can be given in this regard.

Secondly and of much greater importance, we felt that the proposed entrance to the Square from the High Street was both undistinguished and uninspiring. It is essential that this feature should provide both impact and recognition and the Committee felt that the proposed design fails on both counts. We hope that the Council may be able to engage with the designers, prior to considering the application, to ensure a more fitting proposal for this crucially important element of the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Austen

cc Ward Councillors

