

# Epsom Civic Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

Viv Evans  
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council  
Town Hall  
KT18 5BY

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Viv

## **Ref - MSCP at Epsom District Hospital 20/00249/FUL Objection**

The Epsom Civic Society are very concerned at this proposed scheme for a 6 storey car park at Epsom District Hospital. We originally objected to the original application on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Unfortunately, we do not believe that the latest plans and elevations solve any of the major design issues.

We previously stated that the block is a utilitarian structure with a large bulk and mass and a bland, boxy design devoid of any architectural features. The only main difference on the latest elevations are coloured panels within an aluminium cladding system.

Our previous objections have been exasperated in the last year by the urgent need to protect our Conservation Areas and to support our residents in their need to exercise. This last year of Covid restrictions has proved the importance of our local leisure amenities. Unfortunately, this block will have a major effect on the adjacent sports club.

The building height, mass and site location have not altered and still have an overpowering influence on the adjacent cricket club, tennis club, hockey club and sports grounds. All sports club users will be severely affected by the overshadowing of the proposed block, along with privacy viewing problems, car fumes and sun reflection.

This 'shiny' metal clad building does not meet any environmental considerations. Where are the green walls? Where is the timber fenestration? We are alarmed that no Climate control design lessons have been learnt over the last year.

Whilst appreciating the need for additional car parking at the Hospital, we suggest that the number of car parking spaces could be achieved by having a part basement car park and a lower superstructure. Maybe at this time we should be questioning the need for

so much car parking. Only 800m away in the Town Centre we are allowing 'car free' residential dwellings and promoting our good public transport system. Obviously at the Hospital there is a need for patient transport but we suggest that further studies on car parking numbers should be carried out.

Many of the recent Hospital buildings to the south of the site have been of a very poor design quality. Quite possibly they were only permitted planning due to the urgency of the operation of the premises. Surely the proposed MSCP does not fall into this category and our planners should demand a better quality of building design.

The Epsom Civic Society continue to object to this proposal and suggest that the application is withdrawn pending a design review that is more considerate for this location.

Yours Sincerely,

The Epsom Civic Society (Bob Hollis)

