

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY



C/O 37 Stroatley Rise,
Haslemere,
Surrey,
GU27 1AG.
27 August 2015.

Planconsult,
Waverley Borough Council,
The Burys,
Godalming.

Dear Sirs,

Application 2015/1392
18B Lower Street, Haslemere.

The Haslemere Society, after careful consideration of this change of use application, considers that in the interests of the commercial wellbeing of the town the commercial element of this development should be retained and the application should therefore be refused for the following reasons :-

- 1) Planning consent for this new development was granted relatively recently and there were expectations that the commercial element of this development would help to improve the commercial activity in this location which is on the periphery of the town centre. The inclusion of a substantial part of the proposed development for residential use was seen as a financial backing for the commercial element at the lower levels.
- 2) The establishment of commercial activity will help to bring this location into the town centre commercial scene (office or retail) whereas losing this to residential use will have the opposite effect resulting in less use of the adjacent footpath between the car park and Lower Street.

3) The letting agent cites the fact that the narrow footpath fronting this building is an impediment to letting the premises. The Society pointed this out in response to the original planning application, calling for the building line to be set back, but this was not done presumably because the developer wanted to maximise floor space.

4) Given the stated difficulties in trying to let this space in the development the logical action would be to reduce the level of rental that is being sought – but conversion to residential use would produce a more attractive yield! The space is relatively small and therefore only attractive to a small enterprise with limited financial resources which probably could only afford a lower annual/short term rental agreement.

Yours faithfully,

John Greer (Vice Chairman, The Haslemere Society)