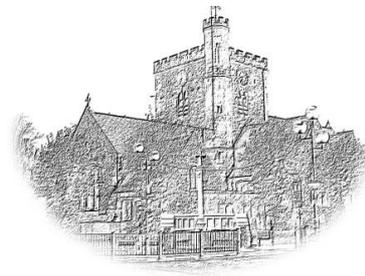


Havant Civic Society

Newsletter – May 2016



Havant War Memorial

Residents of Havant will be aware of the recent addition to the War Memorial of the names of eight military personnel from the Borough who died on active service in Palestine, Northern Ireland, Iraq, the Falklands and Afghanistan.

While the Havant Civic Society applauds this initiative by Councillors Leah Turner and Mike Fairhurst, we are disappointed with aspects of the implementation by HBC staff.

We have pointed out to the council that the style and font used on the new plaques do not match the original plaques and are thus not compliant with the direction of their own planning committee.

The War Memorial is a listed monument and the [decision notice](#) clearly states that the font and style used must match that used for the WW2 entries. It has also come to light that of the eight new entries, one contains an error in the spelling of the name while another has the wrong attribution of rank.

We feel sure that the council will be striving to rectify these unfortunate errors.

East Street

East Street is no longer designated a main shopping frontage within the local plan and whilst businesses and shops remain, it has more of a residential character than the rest of the town

May 2016 Public Meeting

**There will be a public meeting
of the Havant Civic Society**

on

Wednesday, 18th May

In the main hall of Havant United
Reformed Church at 7:00pm.

The agenda will include:

*Havant War Memorial
Market Parade Development
Other Planning Matters
The Gazebo Gardens*

centre. One consequence of this is that planning applications for change of use to 'residential' are most likely to be approved.

Decisions that have already taken place which reflect this change are those affecting numbers 7 and 9, where permission was granted for a 4 -storey block of flats on each site. Two more recent decisions are:

The former Street's premises at number 11 ([APP/15/01227](#)), where permission was granted in January. This concerns the front part of the site only and provides for a 2 bedroom flat on the ground floor and 2 two-bedroom flats on the first and second floors. A white painted rendered wall with two sash windows will replace the existing shop front. The link building behind will be demolished.

Numbers 10A-12 ([APP/15/01408](#)), which is for change of use from retail to residential, to provide three 1-bedroom flats. This has just been approved (25/4/16).

Currently going through the planning process is [APP/16/00281](#) relating to 5 East Street. This application proposes the demolition of the existing retail unit and the erection of a 4-storey building with one 1 bed and three 2-bed flats plus cycle and refuse stores. It should be noted that none of these 4-storey buildings would be any higher than existing buildings such as the Havant Club and Streets.

Whilst we have had no major concerns about these individual developments, we do feel that there could/should have been a cohesive development plan for the north side of East Street. The Street's development does not give any indication, as to what is proposed for the rest of the site, whilst numbers 7 and 9 have been put up for auction, since their planning permissions were granted and failed to sell. Also up for sale, after gaining planning permission, is 10A The Pallant, which backs on to the aforementioned sites.

Market Parade 'Plaza' development

On February 25th, Havant Civic Society made a deputation to the HBC Planning Committee regarding the application for outline planning ([APP/14/01225](#)) for the north east quarter of Market Parade.

Despite an overwhelming volume of objections from local residents and some wise words from their own consultants, the decision was taken to grant outline planning for the site.

With outline planning permission granted for 120 flats in a thirteen storey tower block, the News reported that the face of Havant was set to change forever.

While we fully appreciate the ideal objectives for the provision of private rented commuter accommodation with sustainable transport use, we believe that the application was ill thought out and inappropriate for Havant Town Centre.

Such plans can work well in cities of the size given as examples by the developer's agent, – London, Leeds, Reading and Guildford – but we felt that more research was needed before we can confirm the viability of such an approach in the relatively small borough of Havant.

Central to the Council's position on this application was the principle of 'low car use', only 58 parking spaces being allocated for the site. However, their own consultants, Studio REAL, were rather more sensibly considered:

"...low car use does not necessarily mean low car ownership. This should be managed to avoid issues of residents' car parking in surrounding streets."

"The construction of the application scheme in its current form is likely to mean that the Local Development Order for the wider Market Parade area would need to be redeveloped by building on a very similar footprint to that which has been established by the original 1960s development. This layout is flawed and lies at the root of the area's problems."

"The LDO demonstrates an alternative approach, which would more successfully integrate the station area in Havant's



urban form. However, this cannot be fully realised if Market Parade Plaza, rather than the park, is introduced as the primary development frontage.”

“Historic England and the Conservation Consultant have also objected to the proposal on the basis that it will neither preserve nor enhance, but instead harm the character of the St Faiths Conservation Area - given the LPA's statutory duty in this regard, such objections must be given substantial weight.”

Where a Local Development Order (LDO) is made by a Local Planning Authority, it grants planning permission for a specific type of development in a defined area. An LDO potentially removes the need for a developer to make a planning application. In Havant's case, an LDO is being prepared for the wider Market Parade site, including the contentious north east quarter.

On the subject of that Local Development Order, our objection to the '13 storey tower' application pointed out that the Council were 'putting the cart before the horse'. We argued that had the Local Development Order for the wider Market Parade site been addressed first, providing a clear context for the northern quarter site, then HBC might have been more successful in attracting other developers.

Immediately after the planning decision was made, notices from the Council appeared in the press and on town centre lampposts inviting the public to a two hour lunchtime viewing of the draft LDO for Market Parade. Within a couple of days, these notices had been hastily replaced by others cancelling the event,

presumably the result of the Council realising it had shot itself in the foot. In the past two months, the detail of the Market Parade LDO has [disappeared completely](#) from sight. It is also clear that no work has started on the Northern Quarter leading to speculation that the developer, having achieved the objective of maximising site value through the granting of outline planning, may be taking his profit and leaving the problem to somebody else.

The Post Office

The Old Post Office in East Street was built in 1936 and must be one of the few public buildings in the UK to have the royal cypher of Edward VIII.

The poor condition of the brickwork was drawn to our attention last June and we reported this in our previous Newsletter. We made contact with the relevant person at Royal Mail who organized a survey and soon after gave the go-ahead for restoration work to take place. Thereafter, the pace of progress slowed noticeably, as it proved difficult to find a suitable company to carry out the work.

The work was finally completed just before Christmas to a very high standard, as these 'before and after' photographs show, making the wait well worthwhile.

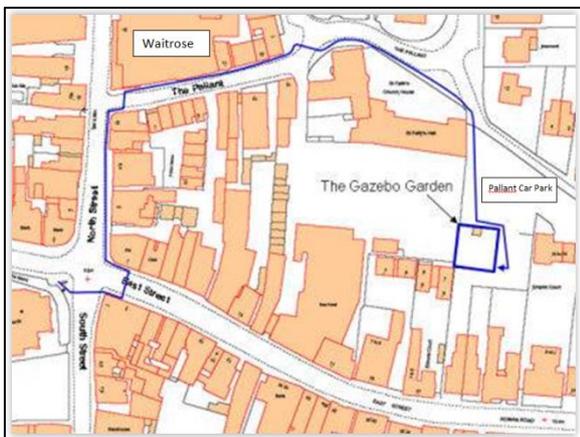


The Gazebo Garden.

On December 22nd, the Heritage Lottery Fund announced that Havant Civic Society has been awarded £19,900 towards the Gazebo Garden Project. This represented the full amount of our application and is a significant achievement for the society.



Working days have now been changed from alternate Saturdays to 2nd Saturday and last Wednesday in each month, hoping this will be better for some people. We need to find residents who can commit time to this, otherwise the project will not be sustainable. We also need someone else that can occasionally be at the garden for the volunteers, to open the gazebo to access tools & give volunteers guidance.



The Gazebo Garden is at the back of the public car park in the Pallant, which runs between Waitrose and Beechworth Road.

If you feel able to help, please contact the secretary at the address below.

civicsocietyhavant@gmail.com

HCS Membership

The committee members of the society work on your behalf in reviewing and commenting on planning applications and liaising with Havant Borough Council and the local press on matters of interest.

In order to help us to cover our costs, we invite annual contributions from residents, currently set at a suggested £4 for a single person and £6 for a couple.

The Membership year runs from 1st October to 31st September.

A membership form may be downloaded [by taking this link](#) or by [email](#) to the secretary.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to friends and neighbours within the town centre. New members will be particularly welcome!

Document links

If you are reading this newsletter online, then selecting the highlighted links will display the appropriate Havant Borough Council website references.

