

Development Services Manager,
Planning Service,
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
Hampshire
PO9 2AX
(Attn: Mrs H Lealan)

12th September 2015

REFERENCE: APP/15/00829 dated 19th August 2015

I have become aware of the Planning Application for the demolition of the existing and erection of a new build at Nos. 36-38 North Street (formally Spencer's Restaurant).

Upon reading the Design and Access Statement I am bemused that there is no mention of the age of this fine Georgian building (thought to be late 18th century) which should be taken into consideration when reviewing the application.

Buildings such as Nos. 36-38 North Street define a sense of the character and the degree of independence that Emsworth has achieved. North Street is an important part of the town, which reflects the Town's growth in the 19th century and still has some historic character which should not be destroyed, for once demolished, this building's history can never be replaced.

Although Nos 36-38 North Street is not listed, the area has two listed buildings namely, No. 6 North Street and St James Church. North Street also has four buildings of Local Interest, namely; the Railway Station, the Fire Station and No's 102 and 104 Station Cottages, as well as some other attractive rows of Victorian cottages and a parade of shops with a colonnaded façade on the western side.

It is agreed that North Street is indeed a street of two parts, with the West side being of architecturally more historic interest than the East side. However this should not detract from the fact that there are some fine buildings which should not be destroyed.

By defining the character of an area it is so critical to its historic preservation. Character can be defined as factor that meet the criteria or bestow a fusing of the community to a locality. This should include noteworthy structures, be it buildings or architectural styles.

Why cannot the façade of the building be retained and amalgamate into a new build thus retaining the character? This would surely be a better solution than reduce to rubble a notable building.

It is hoped that the above will be considered during the consultation process?

(signed) Robert