

Comments for Planning Application APP/18/00855

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/18/00855

Address: 1 Meridian Centre, Havant, PO9 1UW

Proposal: Change of use from Use Classes Part A1/Part D1, to D2 (First Floor).

Case Officer: Rachael McMurray

Customer Details

Name: Mr Paul Butcher

Address: The Beacon 69-73 Meridian Centre HAVANT

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Complainant

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: As the current occupiers of the majority of the unit space represented by this application we would want to draw the Planning Committee's attention to its implications.

The Beacon, the base of Portsdown Community Church, has operated from these units for the past 22 years. It is not only a church building, as implied by the Class A1 use, but serves as a significant community facility in Havant town centre.

In particular it provides:

- * a well attended weekly Parent & Toddler Group
 - * the base of operations for Beacon Food Bank, serving the Borough of Havant in cooperation with other local churches
 - * weekly children and youth clubs open to the public
 - * a cost-effective meeting venue for other local charities and community groups, including hosting the National Citizenship Service and Alan Mak's Community Groups Fair this summer
 - * a popular monthly Active Coffee Morning for seniors
 - * a drop-in coffee lounge for those wanting a quieter moment in the Centre
 - * open Sunday worship services
- as well as an administrative/office base for all the church/charity activities.

It is not clear how much of this activity, if any, would be able to continue with the closure of The Beacon. It is possible that alternative units in the Centre will be offered to us but the cost of out-fitting may well prove prohibitive for the Charity.

Whilst we accept that our lease provides no security of tenure at these premises, we do question if an alternative approach could have been considered to providing the proposed gym/recreation facility, given the significant amount of unoccupied space within the Meridian Centre.