

With regard to the statement submitted from Havant Borough Council regarding 42 North Street Havant, PO9 1PT.

In their statement Havant Borough Council draws the inspector's attention in particular to:

7.3-7.6 Loss of Commercial Use

7.18-7.23 Risk of Flooding

Loss of Commercial Use

This property, on the edge of the main town, has never been a 'walk in' shop or business. From 1987 it was used solely as a base for a Graphic Design Agency which didn't interact with any other organisations in Havant, it therefore follows that a change of use would have no impact on business in Havant.

Since the Graphic Design Agency vacated the building, some 3 years ago, it has remained empty attracting no interest by a third party as a business site.

This part of Havant cannot be considered central to town business, Havant Borough Council seems to have acknowledged this when it allowed an adjacent property, *which was an operating shop*, a change of use and is now a number of residential dwellings.

Risk of Flooding

The site falls within Flood Zone 1 - the Havant Borough Council statement says it is 'at risk of flooding in the future due to climate change' but does not submit any evidence for this assertion.

But it is clear that any flood risk, due to climate change, is not affected by how the building is being used and therefore not a reason to not allow a change of use.

Gianni Shipp

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