



Please reply to:

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PLANNING APPLICATION DC / 17/ 2511 Objection

The Horsham Society recognises the need for a larger and better designed car park in Piries Place but believes that the proposed plans, DC/17/2511, are not appropriate.

The proposed car park should be limited in height so that it is below that of the parapet line of the new hotel and Burton Court. The 5 storey car park would be above the roofline of Burton Court and the anti-climb mesh would dominate the skyline with its vertical support posts giving an image of a 'fence in the sky'. This would clearly be seen from Park Road, Park Place and Copnall Way.

There is an opportunity to replace an existing car park with one that makes a design statement. Consideration should be given to vertical emphasis rather than a horizontal design. Brickwork needs to be local stock brick, in complimentary colours, and the use of vertical brick detailing would add quality to the design. Instead of using the bronze metalwork horizontally consideration could be given to using this between vertical brick panels. This would give a vertical articulation in keeping with the surrounding buildings, drawing the eye up.

The proposed towers are bland and unsightly. They could be improved through featuring brick detailing in different styles of bonding. However, an alternative approach could be considered. Each tower and elevation

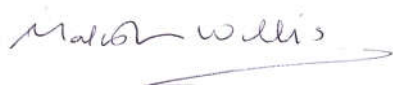
could be considered a separate design, complementing its surroundings.

- Park Place – Darker brick to match its existing surroundings.
- Copnall Way – windows could be used to break up the mass and then external render to match Burton Court.
- Rear tower – render as above to tone in with Burton Court
- Lift tower – Make this the main feature. With a glass exterior it would be open and light making users feel safe and providing ambient light to the public thoroughfare. This would provide good views across the town and become a focus of Piries Place

Additional consideration could also be given to improving Park Place through making a feature of it by the installation of an arch, or building over, to link no.9 Park Place and the new carpark building. This would mask the blank gable wall and enhance the Park Place street scene. There is also the potential of adding small pop up retail units in this area, adjacent to the ground floor of the car park and / or at the end of Park Place.

An alternative consideration to the above designs would be a green wall of planting. This would soften the whole design, however, it would need to be well maintained for it to be attractive otherwise this could become unsightly.

Horsham Society commends HDC for the inclusion of a Changing Places facility, a much needed resource.



Chairman