

REGULATION 19: DRAFT ELMBRDIGE LOCAL PLAN Stage 2 HEARINGS MATTER 9 HERSHAM

May I once again make a plea that the plan to build 13 units and re-provision of community use at the Hershams Library site be removed from the local plan.

This is on the following additional grounds.

1. The 're-provision of community use' has been re-defined as Library. But the covenant in place shows that the land was given for the total use of the Library so re-defining 'community use' to Library does not meet the covenant requirement which does not mention housing. I think the Council should have – at least – a moral obligation to honour the intention of the covenant.
2. Queen Camilla's Reading Room is going from strength to strength., showing a return to reading. The Government and teachers are becoming aware of the damage being done to young people by social media, and are moving to stop it for the under sixteens if they can. If this move succeeds then there will be a gap in their lives, and an opening for young people to turn back to reading; a local Library needs to be in place to help this move.
3. 13 units will help a very small number of people. If the Council take a long view and allow the Library in its present form to remain – and even enlarge in time, the help given to the younger people will be immeasurable.

Submitted on the 18th May, 2024 .

On behalf of
THE FRIENDS OF HERSHAM LIBRARY
C/O Anna Wathen (Mrs) Treasurer

