

COMMUNITY PLAY RESEARCH (10)

THE EAST STREET 'REGENERATION' PLANS

East Street Regeneration

Following the closure of the Redgrave Theatre in 1998 and indications that the Farnham Health Centre was looking to move its location from Brightwells, Waverley Borough Council worked on a Planning Brief to developers interested in the regeneration of "East Street". The townspeople felt that East Street Woolmead buildings needed replacing and the site of the demolished cinema had become an eyesore. But, the ideas put forward in the Council's brief in 2001, focussed intensively on its own land at Brightwells and the proposals that were finally accepted in 2003 did not contain the Woolmead.

A series of planning applications submitted for the East Street Regeneration contained several large blocks of flats, an 8 screen cinema and many shops, no theatre, no tennis courts, and eventually, no bowling green. Almost 6,000 objections were received to the final application on the grounds that the development was too large and unsuitable for a historic market town. The loss of the community leisure facilities was also a cause for much protest. The Tennis Club are due to be removed to Riverside –a polluted site once occupied by the old Gas Holders. The members of the Bowling Club were threatened with eviction and they left, frightened and upset in 2006. Their clubhouse was demolished in 2009. The Council finally approved the plans in 2008, but due to financial difficulties the developer has not been able to start work and after 10 years, the future of the development is uncertain.

Many background papers to Crest Nicholson Sainsbury East Street Regeneration development plans and Planning Application to Waverley Borough Council are held at 4, Nutshell Lane.

Waverley's website has archived records of meetings which have dealt with the proposals and the plans.

Newspaper cuttings relating to the East Street plans from 2000 to the present day are held at 4 Nutshell Lane.