



## PRESS RELEASE

At the end of last year, the Government announced that it intends to allow a change use from Commercial, Business and Service to residential, without the need to apply for planning permission. This means that Evesham's many empty shops will be able to become houses.

Civic Voice, the national organisation of which Evesham Civic Society is a member, has objected to the changes. Our Society fully supports these objections. We are acutely aware of the challenges facing the high street, but will these proposals breathe new life into our high streets? We fear that this change will prevent the proactive and positive management that our town centre desperately needs and simply enable change of use to more profitable uses, often residential, rather than enabling a greater range of uses to diversify and support our high street.

In particular, we are concerned that the proposals could:

- Lead to the loss of historic character within our conservation area, through inappropriate development and unsympathetic alterations.
- Be harmful to the diversity of our high street.
- Enable the creation of poor quality homes and living environments.

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For further information, contact Mrs Gill Pawson, Chair of VECS.

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