

### THE FORMER COMMUNITY HOSPITAL MALVERN



Rock Davidson Associates, authors of the 80 page counter 'Heritage Statement and Assessment of Significance for the Old Community Hospital, Lansdowne Crescent Malvern on the MHDC Portal 15/ 01085/86 FUL was informed in November 2015 that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport [DCMS] decided against recommendation for National Listing . It was Rock Davidson Associates who wrote the Assessment on the building, funded by kind donations from the local community, and put forward the building to Historic England for assessing and consideration for national listing as it qualified as a 'building under threat' This was done by RDA with backing from the community and other professionals as a measure of even further protection and precaution for now and in the future from the current live planning application to demolish the building, which would have been squashed if listed with a preservation order and also it would have safeguarded any future proposals to demolish. It was decided that under Historic Englands 'Community Hospital designations guidelines for hospital buildings' that the Malvern Hospital just fell short of warranting National recognition as there were better examples in London. Encouragingly the report from DCMS did say The 1909-1911 Hospital by William Henman FRIBA donated and financed by local philanthropist CW Dyson Perrins was

**“noted for its strong local presence, expressed in the scale and massing of its design, its quality features, and its local historic significance” and “makes a positive contribution to the local area, which is reflected by its inclusion in the local conservation area.”** The report was countersigned with the following comment **“The Malvern hospital is, however, undoubtedly of strong local architectural and historic interest, which is recognised by its inclusion in the conservation area”**

The planning application to demolish this 1911 building and build a modern 50 bed care home is still undecided by planning committee [SADMC] There is BIG opposition from RDA ,Historic England, the Victorian Society, Friends of Malvern Hospital, The Malvern Civic Society, and a 500 strong petition on Change .Org . Wychavon’s Conservation Officer writing for the MHDC Conservation Comment is in support to retain and reuse this fine Art Nouveau building built by a specialist in Hospital designs William Henman in the Edwardian period. [MHDC has been for sometime without conservation staff and Malvern Hills District Council has recently merged with Wychavon.] The Hospital is in the Great Malvern Conservation Area, a designated asset. In accordance with s72 of the 1990 Act, the Council must ensure that any development within the Conservation Area preserves or enhances its character and appearance. As both applications envisage the demolition of an important historic building, one that contributes a great deal to the Conservation Area’s interest and appearance, both applications must be considered to conflict with this statutory duty .The Hospital also has a local SPD to retain adopted by MHDC back in 2006.

December 2015

### UPDATE

MAY 2016 Former Malvern Hospital Planning Application to demolish REFUSED

MHDC said the demolition the existing building would result in a significant non-designated heritage asset (former Malvern Community Hospital) being entirely lost, and as such the scale of harm in this context is considered to be substantial. The proposed replacement building/s would not justify the loss of the existing former hospital building and its positive contribution it makes to the conservation area and its local significance.