

Application Reference:	DM/22/0560
Location:	High Street, East Grinstead
Description:	A Board
Planning Officer	Hamish Evans
Comments related to access requirements:	The volunteers at Disability Access have looked at this location. There is no particular concern regarding the location of the A-board as described – it is out of the way of the main pedestrian route. However, we do have a serious concern regarding this application and the implications of a precedent. Our group has a longstanding concern with the location of A-boards and other street furniture. These items can form an obstruction to pedestrians using mobility equipment and more generally a hazard to those with mobility issues, including of course with visual impairment using features such as shop/building frontages as a guide. We have on occasion had reports of people walking into street furniture and sometimes causing injury. We are concerned that giving this application approval would set a precedent for future such applications to expect automatic approval on this basis. We would need to be confident that, in the absence of organisations such as Disability Access being present and able to comment, once a street furniture item had been given approval through the planning process, there would be no opportunity to evaluate the possible impact on the people we represent.

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