



Chief Planning Officer
Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Folkestone
CT20 2QY

20 March 2024

Comment on planning application

Reference no:	24/0027/FH
Site address:	20-22 Rendezvous Street, Folkestone CT20 1EZ
Proposal:	Sub-division of existing shop space into 6 smaller units including new entrances
Officer:	Robert Allan
Stance:	SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

The New Folkestone Society's planning sub-committee considered the above application at a meeting on 19 March 2024 and has delegated powers to lodge the Society's support on the following grounds:

- We are pleased to see a commercial outlet in the town centre being retained for retail use and indeed the provision of several small shops, which are greatly needed in the town centre.
- Whilst the design does not appear to provide much, if any, storage space, the redesign of the layout is clever and appropriate for the unit size. These will be good units for start-up businesses.

However, the inclusion of Use Class E(b) is regrettable, as there is already over-provision of coffee shops in Folkestone; the high rents seen in town make shops unviable for other retail uses. We would prefer to see at least a trial period of solely retail use.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Hourahane
Chair, New Folkestone Society planning sub-committee