

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Avon,
Bristol BS1 6PN

March 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

In re: Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy

For the reasons set out in the accompanying email here we summarise the main issues that have to be addressed at the forthcoming public enquiry which we expect to attend in person. In the event that our request is granted for extra time as set out in our email the submission of more detailed arguments will be forwarded at the beginning of April, these will otherwise be presented at the public enquiry.

First and foremost we fully dispute the Council's claim to have the support of a significant proportion of the electorate for the proposed 'Otterpool Park' New Town development. Living in the catchment of that unwanted and unsustainable proposal residents know that it is comprehensively rejected by a majority of them living there.

We flatly dispute the claim by both the Council and Affinity Water (AF) that there would be a sufficient water supply for a development of anything approaching 5/10,000 houses. At a meeting of members of this network held with officers of AF they could only confirm their company's ability to provide the minimum volume of potable water to 1000 new households.

There is very considerable opposition to the inevitable increase in air and noise pollution that would be occasioned by the unacceptable increase in both car and delivery vehicle numbers and journeys should the Otterpool Newtown development proceed. Residents of the area are unwilling to accept the physical and social upheaval and disruption lasting over twenty years that would result from the extensive basic infra-structure civil engineering work that would be needed to provide new mains water and sewerage capacity, roads, houses and shopping centres.

The community fully rejects the Council's claim that the majority of new houses would be for the benefit of the community. Rather would they be purchased by incomers, largely from the greater London area notably south London, where house prices greatly exceed those pertaining to the District of Shepway thus enabling newcomers easily to outbid local people.

There is great concern at the potential loss of farmland notably that of the Owen family whose dairy, mixed crop and livestock operation relies on land adjacent to Stone Street, Upper Otterpool and Newingreen. The same concern and objection applies to the now dormant Westenhanger Racecourse earmarked by the Otterpool Park developers as a very large car park and shopping centre to support a greatly expanded Westenhanger Station notwithstanding Network Rail's contention that such a development would not be practicable or acceptable.

The proposed development of housing on Lymgne Airfield, now owned by 'Homes England', is a particular bone of contention it having been refused at least four times by previous planning inspectors, the most recent decision to refuse being upheld by the High Court following this writer's successful opposition in concert with the Secretary of State to the previous owners' appeal against the Planning Inspectorate's decision.

Residents refute the inherent claim by the District Council that the area's heritage assets are and will be protected, as witness the official find of a Roman Villa at Upper Otterpool the land area of which continues to be included in the Otterpool Park/Town development rejected by residents and the Royal Military Canal at Prince's Parade Seabrook development of both of which sites continue to be opposed by Heritage England. The Royal Military Canal site is particularly contentious due to the intention of the District to drain contaminated surface water in the Canal thus putting the natural flora and fauna at grave risk.