

Received by email: 28 October 2020

Mr Kevin Ward BA (Hons) MRTPI and Mr Philip Mileham BA (Hons) MRTPI -
Proposed Shepway Core Strategy

Gentlemen,

Immediately prior to writing what follows I lacked a response to my request via the Core Strategy Programme Officer Caroline Williams for an unredacted copy of the Otterpool Viability Assessment and time to consider its implications. That being the case I made clear that whilst invited to appear I was unwilling to participate in the forthcoming Core Strategy hearings.

I now have a copy which comprises 138 pages of jargon, speculative calculations and convoluted argument purporting to justify the environmental impact, social and financial cost of 'Otterpool Park' which insofar as I am able to understand what is being said fails to make the case for the development, so I shall continue to absent myself from your public examination submitting the following statement in my place.

The most telling argument against development at Otterpool is that it has totally failed to demonstrate the support of a majority of residents of the area, that criterion being a central requirement for the project to proceed.

What riles me is the cavalier and dismissive attitude to the clear implications of the proposed Otterpool development by our local authority in the face of the strongest warnings emanating from Sir David Attenborough, the conclusion of January's Paris COP meeting and the common sense of the majority of people that live in Shepway.

The principles enshrined in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are routinely disregarded by governments and authorities throughout the world who manifestly fail to apply them or make their citizens aware of their existence or significance. Shepway Council (Folkestone and Hythe District Council) being our local example.

Sir David Attenborough when asked during his recently broadcast conversation with Greta Thunberg, what in his opinion is the most important action society and individuals can take to counter the effects of mankind's profligate behaviour simply replied 'Avoid waste, avoid waste in all its forms'. Those of us

who witnessed that assertion are in no doubt that he knew and meant exactly what he was saying.

As if in direct contradiction of that vitally important maxim our grossly misnamed 'Waste recycling site' at Shorncliffe in Folkestone no longer provides facilities for glass, colour separated or not, which joins the uncontrolled mixture of objects and materials visitors are encouraged to deposit in the 'Household waste' compactor. Seeing that situation in operation at first hand beggars belief.

Adding insult to injury and our intelligence is the proudly displayed notice for all to see when leaving the site claiming a fictitious and absurdly misleading level of material 'recycled'. The residents of Shepway are being hoodwinked on a daily basis.

The Otterpool project has an additional directly detrimental bearing on our area given the officially acknowledged serious shortage of potable water in the Southeast without any more houses being built. No water, no us. And natural England is disappearing fast.

I am embarrassed and angered by the lack of understanding and concern exhibited by elected representatives at every level of government, national and local, of the seriousness of the situation we are now facing. Clones of Donald Trump disclaiming responsibility for and naively believing in immunity from society's self-inflicted damage.

The preoccupation of Shepway Council with the self-agrandising irrelevancies of Otterpool Park, the purchase of Westenhanger Castle and Racecourse and development of Princes Parade is increasingly risible as the impact of climate change grows steadily nearer. Its effect on society will make the tribulations of Covid 19 look like a walk in the park.

The vast sums of public money and Council staff time wasted on the Otterpool, Westenhanger and Princes Parade fantasies can only be described as profligate and the behaviour of the officers and members responsible deserving of prosecution for misfeasance.

████████████████████

Shepway Environment and Community Network

&

NO Otterpool Newtown Campaign