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Your ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

Sir,

I have written under separate cover my reasons for objecting to the reference Y17/1042/SH. I write to you this time with some questions that I believe need to be answered concerning the process that lead us to where we are now with the proposed stopping up of the road and subsequent development of Princes Parade.

Development at Martello Lakes, an area to the West of Hythe, was granted on the basis that a leisure centre would be included in the construction – why is this site not now being used? Residential development continues at the site but no amenities are now included. There is ample space, a major road for easy access (the A259) and a safe junction that has space and scope for improvement (a second junction, including a roundabout, into the site appears to be currently under construction).

Siting of the Leisure Centre on Hythe Green. Why did the council pursue a proposal to build the leisure centre on Hythe Green, knowing full well that it would not be possible due to a covenant on the land? The council then began a campaign of “we cannot build the leisure centre on Hythe Green therefore Princes Parade is the only alternative” - this was I believe a deliberate diversionary tactic intended to blind-side supporters of the construction of a leisure centre and I want the council questioned on this. I do support the construction of a leisure centre despite the fact I am unlikely to use it, but the council's tactic did not fool me.

There are several alternative sites for a leisure centre that would be far more suitable than the proposed site at Princes Parade – firstly and obviously at Martello Lakes where the leisure centre was originally promised; then perhaps at Shorncliffe where there is ample space and where residential development is taking place currently, then at the disused quarry a short distance from Folkestone Rugby Club (a site close to the A20 junction where outlying villages would have easy access to the centre, where it would not be exposed to the elements and where it would draw traffic away from Hythe instead of into it) or of course in the planned new town at Otterpool Park. Why are these not being considered and what is the basis for the council's determination to use Princes Parade when there are other far more suitable sites none of which would be as exposed to the elements and none of which would potentially cause great traffic problems, one of which already has planning permission to build a leisure centre and none ?

Yours faithfully



Mark Steeple