

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED 259



GOSPORT
Borough Council

Comments Form

Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Draft

PLANNING SERVICES GOSPORT

26 SEP 2017

We are seeking your views on the Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre SPD which provides the planning framework for this part of the Borough.

A copy of the document is available on the Council's website:

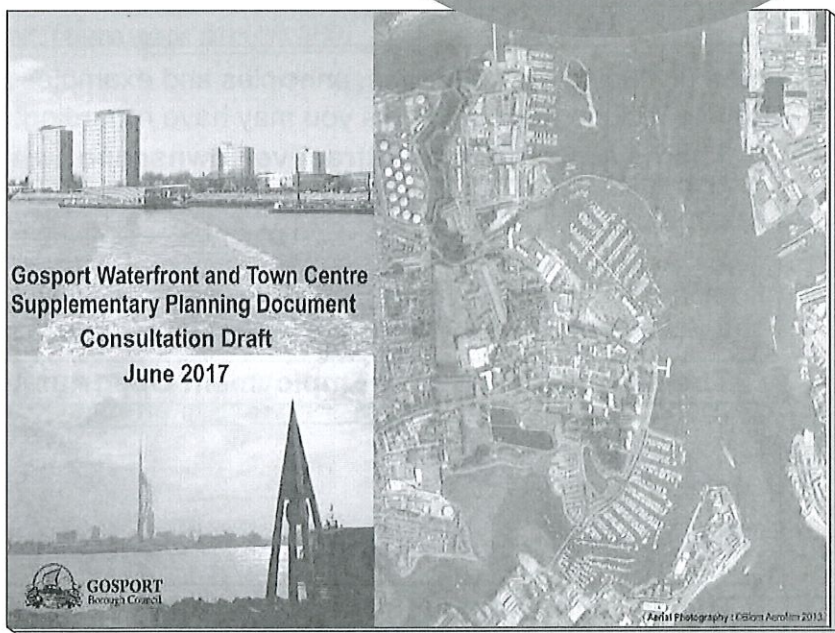
www.gosport.gov.uk/waterfrontspd

If you have any queries regarding the SPD or about making any representations please contact the Planning Policy Section at planning.policy@gosport.gov.uk or telephone **023 9254 5458**

The Comments Form is divided into sections to assist with structuring any comments you may have.

There is a section near the end of the Comments Form (Question 11) which can be used if you require additional space or make comments not covered by the questions included on the form.

Comments will need to be submitted to Gosport Borough Council by **19th September 2017**



Vision (page 5 of the SPD)

1. Do you have any comments regarding the Vision?

Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Challenges (page 10 of the SPD)

2. Do you have any comments regarding the **strengths** of the Waterfront and Town Centre area identified in the SPD? (eg. agree, disagree, any additional ones?)

3. Do you have any comments regarding the **weaknesses** of the Waterfront and Town Centre area identified in the SPD? (eg. agree, disagree, any additional ones?)

**Please use back page if you require additional space.*

Any further comments?

11. Please include any comments you may have

More space available on the back page.*Contact details**

12. Please could you complete your contact details.

Name:

MRS. JOY ROBB MR. KEN ROBB

Organisation (if applicable):

Address

Postcode

Email:

Data protection: Gosport Borough Council is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998. The information that you provide in completing this form will only be used by the Council in the development of Planning documents. Please note that private individuals will not be named when we report comments to the Council's Board. However hard copies of each comments form will be available for inspection at the Town Hall once the consultation period is completed (address, and e-mail details will be redacted).

Returning responses

Comments can either be sent to Deputy Head of Planning Services (Policy)
 Gosport Borough Council
 Town Hall
 High Street
 Gosport
 PO12 1EB

or emailed to planning.policy@gosport.gov.uk

What happens next?

All comments received will be reported to the relevant Council Board together with any proposed actions and/or amendments to the SPD as a result of the consultation process. The SPD will then be recommended for adoption and will become a key consideration when determining future planning applications. Future planning applications will also be subject to public consultation.

**Please use back page if you require additional space.*

Thank you for your comments.

There isn't enough space on the comments form so I thought it would be easier to put them down on A4, mainly commenting on the areas which would affect where I live - HARBOUR TOWER. I would like to start by saying that it is all very well trying to "create an attractive townscape", to attract visitors to our town but when the first thing that stands out is the homeless, the drunks, the druggies and their dealers, then who would want to come here in the first place, or even return for a second visit! The homeless are always in our shop doorways in the High Street and there seems to be more of them every week; they are also in Falkland Gardens where families try and enjoy a couple of hours quality time, also sleeping by the bus station, areas around Harbour Tower and so the list goes on. They abuse the toilet block by the Bus Station - two or three of them in one toilet for twenty to thirty minutes and when they eventually come out, the smells, syringes etc left behind are disgusting and dangerous. This is what our locals and visitors are subjected to - even worse for families with children! The language and behaviour that goes with all this, well, I won't even begin on that. But when you try and mention all this to anyone in authority, no one wants to know. We are told there is nothing to be done by the Police or the Council and even the PCSO's stop and chat and have a laugh with them. Why? These people aren't just "seasonal" - they are all year round! Talking of Falkland Gardens / Bus Station area - the Bus Station definitely needs to be kept but brought up to date and into the 21st century, like across the water in Portsmouth, for an example. The Tourist

Office is an asset which needs to be retained and enhanced and a modern block of toilets is needed, with separate men, women and disabled. If the Bus Station was removed, where would the drivers go for their breaks which they are entitled to? Especially those on the longer journeys, for example, Southampton to Gosport. Our Bus Station, Tourist Office, Falkland Gardens is the first thing we all see as we disembark the ferry, like a "gateway" to the town. Falkland Gardens and The Millennium Promenade should remain as they are. The Gardens name speaks for itself - it is a memorial and should not be tampered with! Also, where would all the bikes go that people use to get to and from work from the ferry? If you want an attractive "gateway" from the ferry area then you need to address these problems first before trying to expand on anything else.

As for the High Street - well, where do I begin - it is run down, unwelcoming and so neglected and out of date. Again, it needs to be brought into the 21st century. It needs a lovely Shopping Mall, like Fareham, with shops, that not just the locals need, but would encourage visitors. Certainly, we DO NOT NEED OR WANT MORE CAFES !!! How many can you have in one High Street? Nice English Restaurants, Bistros, etc would be nice - there is no choice when going out for an evening meal - not everyone wants a pub all the time. Then there's the charity shops, again we have more than enough. Too many empty units but retailers need a reason to set up their business and invest their money but at the moment there isn't much to encourage them, especially

with rates and rent prices. Then entertainment what have we? No cinema, no bowling, leisure facilities very limited - I suppose there's always Bingo! Not every one wants to stay at home every night on their "gadgets". Evening facilities and events seem limited but there is always the fear of crime, physical attacks, which tends to put some people off venturing out for an evening / late night. Will we ever see the likes of Next, Sports Direct (big business these days) M+S, Debenhams, Waterstones, Primark Mothercare, B & Q, to name but a few.

Basically, too many vacant units, too many similar types of stores. Tourists and Business people need to be offered reasons to come here otherwise they will do what they do now - go across to Gun Wharf and Portsmouth or take trips to Fareham or down the motorway to Whiteley, for shops and facilities that they do want and like. What is there for children to do in Gosport? I'm talking all ages and in Summer and Winter - again, very limited.

The roads are another negative - why would you queue all the way from say coming off at Jet 11 of the M27 (just an example) and then have that long, tedious drive into our town centre and find what? A handful of decent shops and? Even the market is shrinking! The whole issue of road congestion deters visitors - it's bad enough for those who live here! As for improving cycle access - that's an interesting one. Not all, but majority, think they own the roads and the pavements now, they expect us pedestrians to get out of their way! The signs you put up are ignored, because they are never enforced. "No cycling, no skateboarding" - people will

do what they want. I've been informed that there is only one traffic warden for the whole of Gosport - absolutely ridiculous and certainly not good enough. I hope I'm wrong! You are suggesting building here, building there, yet in another breath you want to take away some parking areas and car parks this doesn't make sense. You also want to lose 'grass areas, trees,' and replace with yet more buildings such as the grass area between Harbour Tower and Mammord Court - what a joke. How can this even be a suggestion when it is believed that this area of land belongs to Hyde Housing, not you, the Council. In which case, yourselves or a developer would have to purchase this land first. With this idea, you also want to take part of Harbour Tower car park even though we do not have enough spaces now! Why would Harbour Tower residents and Mammord Court want to look out onto more housing and cars instead of the lovely grass and tree area that we have now? What about children playing? This green space definitely needs to be kept - no other option. For housing, there is plenty of room at Walpole Park on the boating lake side or the Police Station, even for a hotel.

Then we come to the other ridiculous suggestion of cafes and restaurants on the harbour front of Harbour Tower. Why should us residents have to put up with yet more noise, cooking smells, drinking, rubbish etc everywhere, we have enough of that now. Back again to the issue of, we do not need or want any more cafes in

Gosport, where would the customers of these extra cafes along the waterfront park? Yes, in Harbour Tower car park. When will you, the Council, understand and accept that this is our home - we want to look out on to the beautiful green spaces we have now therefore we say an emphatic NO to any houses, cafes, restaurants near Harbour Tower and Trinity Green areas. Have you also considered that the value of our properties would be lowered with any such developments as these. So another emphatic NO to reducing our car park at Harbour Tower or losing other car parks. This should all be left as it is now, with only the Bus Station needing attention.

So, summing up my comments regarding your proposals affecting Harbour Tower, Trinity Green, Falkland Gardens, The Waterfront and the High Street, I am saying a definite NO to it all with only a new Bus Station being the only "positive" to come out of all this.

Joy & Ken Robb

