

Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre Supplementary P.docx

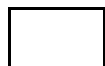
**From:** Peter Spear [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 September 2017 23:32  
**To:** Planning Policy Internet  
**Subject:** Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre SPD; Comments

I lived in Gosport for almost 10 years and although I moved to Devon 3 years ago I still visit Gosport regularly to visit friends and family. I was encouraged to view the SPD documentation at the Gosport Discovery Centre and am hoping that the following thoughts and observations may be of interest as the future plans for Gosport take shape.

I have attached my comments in a Word document as I struggled with the on line form.

Yours sincerely

Peter Spear



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# Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document.

Comments from Peter Spear, former resident of Priory Road, Hardway.

I lived in Gosport for almost 10 years and although I moved to Devon 3 years ago I still visit Gosport regularly to visit friends and family. I was encouraged to view the SPD documentation at the Gosport Discovery Centre and am hoping that the following thoughts and observations may be of interest as the future plans for Gosport take shape.

Living in Hardway gave me the opportunity to enjoy the views across the harbour and appreciate the rich heritage that this little corner of England can boast. From Roman to Mediaeval and up to the present day, through peacetime and war, there is much evidence of the past tucked away or, indeed, in plain sight.

The recent Heritage Open Days amply demonstrated that there is huge interest in everything that Gosport is, and has been. The fact that so many of the events were over-subscribed is proof of the fascination for Gosport's past that is held both by residents and people from far afield.

One of the great joys of living in, or visiting, Gosport is the ease of getting about by bike. Gosport benefits from good cycling infrastructure and statistically ranks amongst the top ten cycling towns in the UK, which goes to show that where the right facilities exist it is easy for people to adapt and that there is a clear latent demand. I am always pleased when I return to Gosport and notice the sheer number of people going about their daily lives on bikes, from the very young to the elderly. The benefits from encouraging cycling are well documented and should be considered as a positive contribution to tackling some of the problems mentioned in the SPD, such as poor health and obesity.

The connectivity with Portsmouth via the Gosport Ferry is a huge asset, and a journey on the ferry during the peak commuting hours provides clear evidence of the demand for, and convenience of, cycle commuting, in contrast to the gridlocked vehicle traffic on the A32. The promotion of cycling and capitalising on the existing infrastructure would bring numerous benefits to the town such as reducing congestion, improving air quality, health and well-being as well as tourism opportunities.

In Devon where I now live, a number of new cycle routes have opened which are proving to be hugely popular. The scenic Exe Estuary Trail attracts visitors from all over the world, whilst the Stover Way which links two towns previously only accessible via busy main roads, has quickly been adopted by commuters, leisure cyclists, joggers, dog walkers and families with young children. Economic benefits

in the two towns are being felt already and the route capitalizes on the rich industrial heritage of the area, including the Stover Canal and the Dartmoor Granite Tramway. The amazing part about it is that this has been achieved at a fraction of the cost of other transport infrastructure options.

This Travel Devon Web page shows some of the excellent Cycle trails in Devon:

<https://www.traveldevon.info/cycle/cycle-routes/cycle-trails/>

Further afield, on a couple of recent visits to Canada I was impressed to see how changes made in the last 10 years in two main cities have successfully reduced car dependence and promoted recreational opportunities and integration of transport options. In Vancouver a comprehensive commitment to transport integration has seen the opening of a network of city cycle routes, the restriction of a 4 lane highway to allow for a 2 way cycle route, complemented by the installation of user-operated bike racks on the front of every city bus.

On Toronto's Waterfront a wide traffic-free route is now enjoyed by a whole host of people jogging, roller-blading, walking, and cycling, all sharing the space with respect for each other. Good infrastructure includes safe and plentiful cycle parking, drinking water fountains and even the occasional public bike repair stand!

Gosport has the potential to be as good as any of these places if the commitment is there. When I first came to the town I quickly adapted my lifestyle to include cycling because the infrastructure in place made that choice easy. Future development must not detract from that, yet already I have noticed an increase in traffic and a reduction in the cycling infrastructure in some key areas. For example on the approach to the Ferry terminal the cycle route on Mumby Road seems to have all-but disappeared and since the new Aldi store opened I feel far more intimidated by the increased traffic in that area. The cycle lane stops and there are parked cars on both sides of the road so cyclists find themselves being squeezed into the sides of a narrow channel as vehicles attempt to overtake. This is a key access route to the Ferry for cyclists, so a safe, segregated route is desperately needed.

Looking at the proposals in the SPD there is only the occasional mention of cycling, and it doesn't feature on any of the maps as far as I could see, yet this is one of the major assets of the town and has the potential to provide many opportunities from improved health to increased Tourism opportunities.

Please give this your consideration in the future stages of the planning for Gosport's future.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Spear

Supporting Photos below

## Supporting Photos.

Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Every city bus has a user-operated 2-bike rack



Vancouver Waterfront Recreational Trail



Vancouver Heritage Totem Pole Garden



Toronto ON, Canada

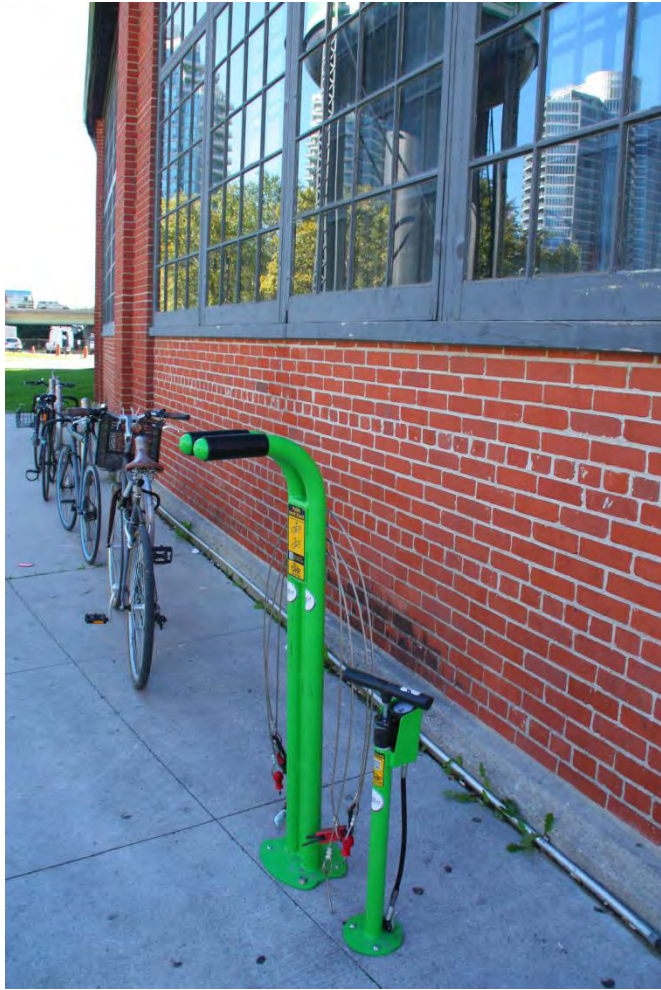
Waterfront Recreational Trail





Public Bike Repair Stand, Toronto.





Town Quay, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Part of the Templer Way Heritage Trail, including the Cycle & Pedestrian bridge across the River Teign.

