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To: Planning Policy Internet
Subject: SPD comments

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Good morning,

I would like the following comments taken into consideration regarding the future of the town.

1. Ask yourselves **why do we need a transport interchange?? We don't.** What we need is bus stops! People don't come to Gosport to get access to London or Brighton etc etc Portsmouth has this we don't need it. This does not warrant a 'transport interchange' taking up precious water side space and spoiling the view. Therefore road side bus stops along mummy road and south street are sufficient. Large clear easy signage is all that is needed and doesn't require vast sums of money.
2. Gosport has so much to offer as a tourist destination it is beautiful and currently relatively unspoilt and I applaud you for recognising that the areas that need immediate attention are the high street and ferry area. These are the areas that let us down. This is an opportunity not to be wasted. Flats and shops and a bus station, how dull and old fashioned! That is what Portsmouth offers, why would people want to come here for a smaller lesser version of the same! This is the time to be brave and use our imaginations. Portsmouth and Gunwharf has the visitor numbers. We need to attract those same people across the water. We won't do this by offering a watered down version of what they have already seen but **by offering something different.** We don't need another highrise building Portsmouth have done that very successfully. Our side of the harbour is already blighted by the towerblocks another high rise is the last thing that will attract people to the area. I think we **should target families.** Gunwharf can be busy and stressful with children. Children love boat rides. The Gosport ferry offers a brilliant cheap boat ride. We want parents to know that at the other end there is a free, fun, boat themed play park that has unusual, fun and challenging play equipment in a natural style and that there are **family and purse friendly cafes and restaurants** with fantastic views of Portsmouth Harbour and the Spinnaker Tower (**you don't get that in Portsmouth**). There should be free (or token charge) mini buses to the submarine museum, explosion museum or a fun trail to follow if they are willing to walk. We need to make it easy for people. We need to ensure there is large clear signage and advertising in Portsmouth and Gunwharf.
3. In the summer we need a **low cost dedicated frequent bus service to Stokes Bay from the ferry.** Could be free as far as submarine museum. Everyone loves a day out, and for children how exciting to have a ferry ride and then a bus ride to Stokes Bay and all it has to offer!
4. We should promote and encourage the **radio controlled yachting enthusiasts** by asking them what they would like and need from the facilities and town. Similarly with the **yacht owners. Ask them** what they would like and need from the town to encourage them to enjoy spending more time and money here. Advertise/promote/encourage **walkers** here. We have so much of interest to them. Concentrate on asking the question what would make it **easy for them** to enjoy spending time here and ask them.

5. For older children and adults we should make use of the water and have an **inflatable waterpark (see New Forest Water Park for ideas)**. If this could be seen from the harbour it would advertise itself, if not it would just take an unusual inflatable on the edge of the harbour somewhere to draw attention and start people asking questions. People want: lifestyle, thrills, adventure, family time, experiences. They need to be able to find these things in Gosport.

6. The High Street is currently a wasted opportunity. It is the gateway to the town from the ferry so **why don't we just go for it!!** I remember the first time I walked down **Main Street in Disneyland Paris**, maybe you do too. The high street lends itself to this look perfectly. If you look up when you are walking you will see some beautiful architecture above the often ugly shops. Why not enhance and capitalise on this. Invest in facades at shop level and above for those that need it and just at shop level for others. Turn it into a real talking point. Involve art students, architecture students. It could be 1920s themed or even marine themed. I am not talking about cheap and tacky we need a quality development but Disneyland shows this is possible. I love walking up the high street and seeing a massive ferry passing by. It is unusual to have a high street so close to such a large busy harbour.

7. We already have a lot of coffee shops but none of these are **open** into the **evenings**. Not everyone wants to go to a bar or a pub or out for a meal with the costs that entails so I feel this would be another good social option for people.

We have nothing to lose, businesses and customers are not being attracted by what the high street currently offers and half measures won't be enough to make a real difference. Such an unusual development would attract huge media attention that we could capitalise upon. Councillors need to be brave and dynamic and embrace innovation both in design and funding. **Lets involve young enthusiastic creative minds in the design** and we could really pull this off and open Gosport up to visitors without ruining it for the people who have loved it and lived here for many years.

Kind regards

Rachel Langford

