

1 Vision.docx

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 September 2017 21:20
To: Planning Policy Internet
Subject: SPD

Please find attached my comments on the above.

Thank you.

Michael March
[REDACTED]

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1 Vision

There is much in the the Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre SPD that is encouraging though I do have reservations about some aspects of the development. As a resident of Seaward Tower, I wonder what is meant by 'Consider re-starting lighting Harbour and Seaward Towers, particularly on special occasions'. I believe that any such plan should be carried out only with the prior consultation and agreement of residents. Some of my more general concerns are included under 8 Overall comments.

Theme F Improving public health and green infrastructure provision

The concept of linking the Millennium Promenade with the Gosport Lines walk is excellent as are all the ideas under this theme. Similarly, tree planting on streets such as South Street will enhance their appearance. However, I could find no mention of a timescale for these aspects of the development.

Character Areas

Trinity Green area

Plan 18 shows cafe/restaurant potential on the harbour side of Seaward and Harbour Towers. Seaward Tower is already short of parking space on the Trinity Green side but has a few extra, very necessary parking bays on the waterfront side. These would surely disappear if a cafe or restaurant were to be built there. The existing undercroft residents' parking might also be affected. Any such catering establishment would create a nuisance factor for Towers' residents in terms of noise up till closing time (whenever that might be) and general hustle and bustle right outside when you might be wanting a bit of peace and quiet.

Overall comments

8 Is there anything in the SPD that particularly concerns you and why?

Additional housing, which forms a major part of the proposal, along with the extra tourists the council wishes to attract, would inevitably increase the number the cars coming to, going from or remaining in the area. I am not convinced that car parking provision has been thought through adequately to meet these eventualities. Maybe too much is being expected of Walpole Car Park in terms of capacity potential.

The expression 'underutilised space' is recurrent throughout the document. To my mind, this is not a fact so much as a value judgement. Some spaces, surely, do not have to be filled just because they are there and provide a welcome break from all the development around them. Lawrence Square and Nat Gonnella Square are examples.

As more is done to encourage the yachting fraternity, I fear the gentrification of Gosport at the expense of some people currently living here. For example, on page 96 you say 'multiple tenants will need to be relocated'. Likewise, there is a danger that local shops could be driven out of business by the arrival flashier, designer brand stores keen to exploit more upmarket potential. Overall, any development plan must cater for the interests of the current population and not just offer a bonanza to developers and big business.