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Fwd: LETTER planning SLIPWAY Rob2 210216

1 message

Peter Barnett <peter.barnett@adur-worthing.gov.uk> 11 March 2016 at 08:31
To: Planning - <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>

Representation

Peter Barnett | Principal Planning Officer | Adur & Worthing Councils
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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Michelle Jewiss** <[redacted]>
Date: 10 March 2016 at 17:25
Subject: LETTER planning SLIPWAY Rob2 210216
To: peter.barnett@adur-worthing.gov.uk, james.appleton@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Mr R Jewiss

76 West Way

Lancing

West Sussex

BN15 8NA

RE: Proposed Shoreham Slipway.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Dinghy Instructor & Paddle sport Coach associated with **3rd Shoreham Sea Scouts** and as a concerned member of the public regarding the proposed new slipway for Shoreham. I wanted to make you aware of my position and objections to a new slipway on the Adur Memorial Ground.

I have been sailing on this stretch of water with the local Sea Scouts for numerous years. We are a Royal Navy recognised group so our water activities are very important to us. We are also the base for the RYA registered sailing school.

The water activities are open to our members where we take them from complete novice up to RYA stage 2-3 if possible from where they are normally at an age to leave us and join a club. From this you can understand that they are not experienced to start with and bringing them up to an internationally recognised standard where they have some skills.

- Along with the sailing we also offer paddle sports both kayaking and canoes. As with the sailing, this can cover all our members no matter their level. This results on the young people being out on the water approximately every other weekend and Troop weekday evenings when the tide is suitable throughout the sailing season.

We use the 'nursery area' between the Scout HQ and the rail bridge for coaching novices until they have sufficient skills progress to area beyond the bridge, although as we are open to all, this is done by the overall conditions and attending students abilities on the day of each session.

Location of to the slipway proposal at Adur Memorial Ground

Having reviewed the proposal I reached the following conclusions:

Safety:

For experienced sailors/paddlers the new slipway would itself be an additional hazard and make going upstream much more difficult. The presence of motorboats would be a considerable additional hazard and would require ensuring only competent members both sailors and paddlers are on the water at the same time as any motorboats are using the proposed new slipway. Additional risk assessment and safety procedures would be required to cover this but we are, as yet, unsure of how we could fully manage the risk of, for example, incompetent or reckless motorboat users.

For the novice water sports enthusiast with limited or no boat control - the risks from sharing the water with closely manoeuvring boats in potentially strong tidal flows would be very high and the impacts could be catastrophic and even fatal.

At this point in time I have not satisfied myself that it is possible to minimise the risks to a point where we could let any novices on to the water at the same time as the slipway is being used. This would effectively end Scout water activities outside our Headquarters.

In the absence of being able to mitigate the risks I would not be comfortable to continue offering these opportunities to the young people of the area. As much as I am committed to getting people on the water the prospect of serious or fatal accident as a result of a collision with a motorboat by the slipway, then I can only foresee our Insurers, the Coroner and governing bodies deeming us to have been negligent. This is not a situation we could entertain for both potentially legal and moral grounds.

Further Considerations:

Having read the CHM12hill report which was flawed in my opinion.

It suggests there is restrictions with the current moored boats whilst then indicating that this would be manageable it later suggests adding channel markers adding more congestion.

- The suggested location on the Adur Memorial Ground would not be suitable for a variety of craft including Sailing Dinghies so restricting the number of potential users.

The tides allowing access and egress from this option are restricted as tidal flow is quite rapid at times and becomes very shallow extremely quickly. This means that getting to the slipway would not be possible for long periods of time. This limits the potential for the actual use of a slipway will be limited both in time and occasions with the finical reduction alongside this. This is recognised by anyone with local knowledge of this part of the river.

Considering how congested the Memorial Ground and A259 can become at weekends without exaggerating additional circumstances, such as the regular car boot sales in the summer & potentially most used dates. As the approach through the memorial Ground is already narrow the risk of collisions on events mentioned previously is quite high.

If the barrier preventing access were to remain then even a lot of powered craft would not be able to pass so restricting potential users even further.

The view from visitors of the shops and town that would be obscured from the memorial Ground by the Roprtackle development until a water user is some way from the launching point. If the aim was to encourage users and provide a pleasant seen this is not going to happen.

Having sailed and paddled from other locations any potential finical benefit to local establishments are not best served. The location from the memorial ground does not give a view of the amenities in Shoreham. Also this means that the unless the desire is to drive a vehicle and trailer into the town then try and park visitors have to walk back out the grounds and over the bridge to even see the local establishments and shops. This could mean a loss of potential revenue

I would like to thank you for your time in reading this letter and trust that my concerns may be considered in any decision you may make.

Yours Sincerely

Robert Jewiss

3rd Shoreham Scout Leader