Dear Kieth,

In reply to your letter dated 30th July regarding the response to the proposed Beach Hut planning application. ADC/0269/09
In reference to your points made please find below the responses to match.

(a) Although kitesurfing is apparently not allowed on this part of the beach you will find that the sport is popular along the whole stretch of the beach with the Beach road area often the main spot during the winter as many of Shoreham's kitesurfers live in Beach road and the Kings Way. There are no signs stating where the kitesurfing area is because even though I have pursued the matter of a dedicated kite zone myself for 4 years in countless meetings and countless emails nothing has been done to form it so nobody knows. However thus said I still don't believe it will change locals kitesurfing out of their back gardens, especially when they will often be the only people on the entire beach. Many of the kiters we rescue launch from Lancing beach or the Widewater car park area and end up drifting down wind heading east. We manage to get to them before the wind and current pushes them into the harbour arm or out around it. We don't manage rescue every kitesurfer or piece of equipment that are struggling to get back to the beach and the local RNLI do have to rescue a number of kitesurfers each year at Shoreham and Lancing but due to us this number is certainly quite reduced. So far this season we have saved 12 kites, 7 boards and 4 people that were not in our school taking lessons.

(b) The cabin is used for it's original purpose however rather than using a boat to help rescue kitesurfers and their equipment we find it a lot easier to use 12' long paddle boards as launching these is far quicker and has less impact on the flora and fauna of the beach with far less pollution. When we teach learners to kite up by Shingle road we paddle or carry a board along so it is in place when we need it. To do this with a boat would more detrimental to the nature reserve.

(c) Even though the nearby shelter on Beach Green is no longer used as a kitesurfing base it doesn't take away the need for the safety cabin. If the cabin was removed where would the safety boards be stored and who would help to run these rescues, which are all completely voluntary and certainly save the RNLI from doing more of a job than they already have to.

I can sympathise with the point raised that it is detrimental to the appearance of the area due to its size. As we now only store in there safety boards of 12.5 feet long then I would be happy to shorten the hut down to 4 meters in length.
However I do not agree that it is detrimental to the beach flora what so ever and would really like to see proof of this point raised. The few surrounding cabbages and other plants are thriving and looking better than ever.
As for the point raised that the users of the cabin often park on yellow lines this is really quite an un fair statement as there really is only regularly 2 different people using the cabin, me being one of them and the other totally understanding not to cause any point for local residents to complain about us. It is far more likely to be one of the other 65 beach hut owners or beach users illegally parking.
Kind regards
Jonathan Ellman-Brown

ADUR D.C.
CHIEF EXECUTIVES
DEPARTMENT
- 5 AUG 2009