52 The Meadway
Shoreham Beach
West Sussex
BN43 5RP

07929 413504

Carlos Hone
Planning Department
Adur Council

c.c Keith Morgan

8th October 2009

Dear Mr Hone

Re: 100 Old Fort Road

I am writing in support of Howard and Sarah Carter's application to develop the front garden of 100 Old Fort Road.

I have started a community-based organisation on Shoreham Beach called Beach Grown & Nourished (BGN) whose principles and activities are perfectly reflected in the aims that the Carters have for their property. After only one month's publicity (in September's Beach News) BGN already has thirty local residents as members, some from Old Fort Road. In addition, Shoreham Beach Community First School and Transition Town Shoreham are partners in this venture; the Sussex Wildlife Trust is currently looking at ways in which we may work together and Councillor McKinney has been very supportive. Reverend Gail Souppouris from Church of the Good Shepherd and Friends of Shoreham Beach also approve of the projects aims. The values and objectives of BGN have clearly struck a chord with people here. If you would like more information about BGN I would be delighted to provide it.

The idea to set- up a local body which would encourage and facilitate more space in gardens for vegetable growing and wildlife habitats and to seek community allotment space was inspired partly by an increasing concern at the amount of concreted, gravelled or paved-over land in Shoreham Beach gardens. Not only is this aesthetically unpleasing, a wasted opportunity to grow plants, and bad news for biodiversity, but it also seems like folly in view of our exposure to flood-risk in this area.

Beach Grown Nourished



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No-one disputes that growing trees and vegetables in this coastal environment is a challenge. But it *is* possible and increasingly important that we do so in order not just to protect the existing environment here, but also to improve and strengthen its resilience to cope with the difficulties that climate change may present us with. That surely means more trees, plants and soil and less concrete/brick. I have also been struck by the resonance that the Carters' elegant design has for the heritage of Shoreham Beach as Bungalow Town with its glass studio.

In short, the Carters' plans are an exemplar of the sort of steps that international and national environmental, planning and energy policy is advocating. I hope that the debate within Adur Council will be about how to encourage *more* of the properties along the Foreshore and elsewhere to be adopting similar pioneering steps, rather than maintaining the outdated, relatively unattractive and ecologically unintelligent status quo.

Yours sincerely

Deborah O'Reilly
Founder – Beach Grown & Nourished