West Sussex County Scout Council

Lodge Hill Centre, London Road, Watersfield Nr. Pulborough RH20 1LZ

Adur & Worthing Councils,
Planning Department
Worthing Town Hall,
Chapel Road,
Worthing,
West Sussex,
BN11 1HA

Dear Sirs,

In my role as Chairman of West Sussex County Scouts I write to express concerns with regard to the safety of the young people associated with Scouting.

Considerable risks may ensue should Adur District Council Planning approve the proposal to create a new slipway adjacent to that currently enjoyed by our waterborne training colleagues.

The new slipway will, I understand be used to provide access to the water by outboard motor powered vessels and as such, place at risk our young people who, given the tidal flows may well be seriously injured as it is requisite of canoeist's and dinghy sailors to stand by and in the water to assist in the launch of their chosen craft.

My uniformed and specialist trained colleagues have sought my support in their quest to protect our young persons and, have asked me to include the following statements of their concerns which may:

Place in danger young people by allowing speedboats and such other powered craft to be launched straight into the long standing training area.

Approval of the application will mean an end to all waterborne activities due to this danger as it goes beyond all the operating procedures and insurance conditions under which we have to operate.

The area is already very crowded due to the boat mooring areas which occupy two thirds of the water area which is not immediately obvious.

Given the very limited tidal range, the slipway would be unusable for most of the ebb time flow and therefore financially unviable as young people would have to stop stop using it given the safety issues.

The site is too far from the town centre to encourage visitors to travel to it as spectators encouraging their children with ages of minority to adult. Continued…….2

The site is only really visible from Ropetackle where town visitors do not go, so it would not be regarded as a town attraction.

Access to the site is via a narrow single track road to the launching site which, given the volume of summer activities that take place on the Adur Recreation Ground. Such would be the volume of traffic it may well create traffic mayhem.

Cars and those with boat trailers endeavouring to enter and leave the ground coupled with those pulling boats on trailers could lead to public disorder.

The Travellers Barrier height, for understandable reasons, restricts the height of vehicles and trailers. It is possible that those unfamiliar with the restriction may turn up, only to find there is no turning area!

This restriction would require the driver to reverse both car and trailer all the way back to the A259 against the traffic.

Reversing in this restricted area is creating a very dangerous action which may not have been considered when considering the proposals for the new slipway.

Finally, the two low bridges restrict anything but small motor or speedboats being launched there which, renders the slipway useless for the majority of sailors and power boat owners.

Yours faithfully

Colin Field JP DL

Chairman

For and on behalf of West Sussex County Scouts