

Dear Sirs,

PLANNING APPLICATION: Reference AWDM/0737/26

Application concerning land at south east corner of Amberley Drive and Marine Drive, Worthing, West Sussex.

I wish to object please to this Planning Application, principally on the following grounds:

- **Environmental**

The land is within a particularly environmentally sensitive area, on green land, between the sea and the Downs.

The proposal is totally out of character with the area. The Goring Gap is one of the few places left in Sussex where one can look directly from the sea to the South Downs National Park. This development would destroy that as well as the character and appearance of this important heritage setting. It would cause the irreplaceable loss of one of Worthing's great assets and a further reduction in already scarce green space in the Borough.

Any development will impact adversely biodiversity, damage habitats (e.g. those of reptiles, amphibians and particularly those birds which are ground-nesting (skylarks etc), of which there are many on the Gap but sadly, few elsewhere.

The application includes, inter alia, equipment including shipping containers, portable toilets, temporary structures, showers etc, which are completely alien to this environment. I will concede the land currently has the appearance of a junk yard, with a variety of vehicles and structures and attracts adverse comment. What is proposed will make it worse. Do we really want this to be the first thing that visitors to Worthing see when approaching via the coast road?

So far as I am aware, development of this land is precluded by the area's Local Plan.

- **Public nuisance and safety**

There is no public transport serving this area, so there would be additional traffic on local roads providing access, which are already busy. This is likely to cause not only nuisance and increased pollution but also an additional safety risk to the more vulnerable road users – dog-walkers, pedestrians, ornithologists, joggers, cyclists etc. who use the area in considerable numbers.

In addition, there is already a considerable parking problem in the area in fine weather; people already park on double-yellow lines and on corners. Notwithstanding the proposed provision of parking, I suggest the problem will be compounded if the proposals are accepted.

It is likely that noise from the development will be carried on the prevailing westerly wind to the houses in adjoining roads; a recent visit by the travelling community has proven this to be so. This is likely to be greatest in the summer, when residents will be outdoors or have windows open.

There would, I suspect, be an increase in the number of pedestrians crossing Marine Drive, (often, of necessity, between parked vehicles, and near a corner around which

some traffic speeds) from the proposed development to and from the beach. That ust present great safety issues than at present.

- **Prevention of crime and disorder**

The area has a historical problem with anti-social behaviour. Not so long ago, it was necessary to form a residents' action group and involve considerable police resource to counter successfully, disorder. That included damage to cars, the kicking down of garden walls, broken glass on the greensward and roads etc.

Separately, the beach shelter at the end of Aldsworth Avenue was a congregating site for young people. It was vandalised several times and repaired and finally burned to the ground. The council decided against replacement.

I am fearful that the proposed application could provide a focal point, particularly after dark, for undesirable activities.

- **General**

Presumably Southern Water would need to be consulted about a borehole but I believe they can alter the environment through groundwater depletion, pollution risks and localised habitat disruption. No mention is made of wastewater disposal from showers etc.

The Gap is already prone to severe flooding in the winter. The proposed car park will compact the ground, making drainage more difficult.

Mention is made of Shetland Ponies and other animals "for entertainment purposes". I wonder whether thought has been given to buildings for stabling etc and the suitability of the area for sheltering animals, particularly during inclement weather.

Thank you for considering my representations as to why the Application should be rejected.

Kind regards.

Adrian.