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Skate Park (Lancing)

1 message

[redacted] 7 March 2016 at 18:00

To: planning <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>

Ref : AWDM/0259/16 & AWDM/1572/15

Dear Sir/Madam

I have recently received your letter dated the 29th February 2016 re the above references.

I live in the flats at East Lodge and have been aware of the Parish Councils plans regarding the park, and have also attended a " Consultation " event. I am apposed to having the skate park on Beach Green for the following reasons :

Consultation Process :

Mr James Butler who chaired the meeting was **not** an impartial chairman. He made his views very transparent that he was there to support the families who wished to have a skate park on the green behind the " Setyres " building. No other councillors were present (Parish Clerk present) so the " feedback " to his fellow councillors must have been bias. **This is an undemocratic process.**

Cost :

It is my understanding that the majority of the funding is to be met by a grant, and an estimated £10,000 would be funded by the Parish Council. Unless the Parish Council is unique is these days of austerity, I would have thought that this was not a " priority " when essential services could be affected for the whole community. Has far as I am aware there has been no mention of recurring costs that are to be expected with upkeep and maintenance year on year. The Parish Council would be committing funds that are being reduced year on year.

Area Deterioration :

If constructed this " block of concrete " would be a considerable eye sour, to what is a fantastic area for families (especially in the summer months). Beach Green is one of the few areas left where families can play a variety of pastimes. A skate park has a high risk of being defaced with graffiti, litter etc. Also the noise level would be extremely irritating due to the nature of the pastime. It is worth remembering that if this park was built, there is little chance to restore the area. Mr Butler was told at the consultation meeting that " dealing " occurs in the Beach Green Car Park in the evenings. Why the Parish Council should wish to site a park close to a designated children's play area, with all the possible risks of " dealing " that takes place is yet another gamble they are happy to make.

Security :

As already stated at the meeting and above, there is " dealing " of substances in the Beach Green Car park at night. The park may encourage further crime, and I still do not know if the Police are aware of this, and what there response times etc. would be. It was implied by Mr Butcher that the young men who wanted the park " would not allow the park to be misused or encourage " anti-social " behaviour ". Just how he thinks this was a suitable response to the question is beyond me. If the Parish Council is part funding and actively supporting the scheme, they must realise that they cannot wipe there hands of any problems that might occur. The Parish Council have a " Duty Of Care " to all residents if this was to built.

The Perch :

A lot of the concerns regarding this proposal have been by the owner of The Perch. It would also seem that the council have manoeuvred themselves into a position of " so long as we address the issues raised concerning " The Perch ", that this can override all the other views of the residents and any of their objections. It is worth remembering that all seating in " The Perch " is facing South - out to the sea and **not**

North. The very fact that the Parish Council has changed the proposed park following concerns by the owner, proves that the Parish Council **acknowledges** the fact that the park would be unsightly, with possible anti-social behaviour. However, the Parish Council assumes that local residents can put up with it.

Hours of Use :

It was envisaged by the Parish Council that the Park would only be used during daylight hours. Apart from Mr Butler assuming that the young users would be governing the park, how are " suitable hours " to be enforced and by who, once the novelty is over and the few users outgrow the pastime. The Parish Council is also assuming that Skate Boarding will be popular in years to come !

Access :

Unless proposed users of the Park all live actually adjacent to the beach, virtually **100%** of users would have to cross the extremely busy A259. I realise there is a traffic light crossing option to use near Setyres, but the park location could lead to road accidents etc.

Who Benefits :

This undertaking and upheaval does not benefit the whole community. Just what case study and ratio to population within Lancing was used to support this proposal would be very interesting.

Summary :

Although my views reflect that the park should not be built on the green, I have done research on skate parks and have found stories that are successful and just as many that have had a detrimental impact and have been a disaster. Please do not make a mistake and ruin " Beach Green " only to find that you can't right the mistake. For all the reasons above I do urge you to consider all the consequences should this plan be approved.

Yours sincerely

J.Kent