

HGP PLANNING CONSULTANCY

Town Planning Consultants
to the Private & Public Sector

Head of Development Services
East Hampshire District Council
Penns Place
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU31 4EX

MH/mp/98.P44
19th January 2001

For the Attention of Andrew Biltcliffe

Dear Sir

LAND AT EAST MEON

As requested by your officer, Andrew Biltcliffe, I am writing to outline my thoughts as to why a planning application on the above site would not be inappropriate at this time.

As your officer is aware, East Meon Parish Council wrote to you on the 12th December, detailing the work that has been undertaken on this project and confirming that the proposals now had a very high degree of public support and the unanimous backing of the Parish Council.

There are two principal reasons why I believe that there is no material advantage to be gained by delaying a planning application:

- i) The whole proposal is geared around the recreational needs of the village. In particular the very pressing needs for a new football pitch and changing rooms for the village's two teams. At present, sides are having to change in what is basically an old tin shed with no facilities whatsoever. Therefore the sooner that work can commence on the project the sooner that the existing problem can be overcome. This is particularly important given the time it actually takes to produce a playing field ready for play. The same argument also, of course, applies to the other proposed recreational facilities.
- ii) In this particular case I cannot see that any groups will be disadvantaged by not taking the proposal right through the Local Plan process.

Firstly, the Structure Plan is now approved and the regional guidance published. Consequently, it is clear that the total housing requirement, as identified in the First Deposit Plan, will not go down, in fact it will have to increase. Therefore, there is no argument that the housing numbers may no longer be needed.

Secondly, to approve a site prior to a Local Plan Inquiry would normally attract the complaint that the competing sites or their promoters had been given an opportunity to advance a case that their site was a more appropriate location than the site identified. However, in this case, as you are aware, no alternative sites have been suggested in East Meon.

Contd.....

Furzehall Farm, Wickham Rd, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7JH.
Telephone 01329 220224. Facsimile 01329 282380.
Email: admin@hgppc.co.uk Website: www.hgppc.co.uk

Directors: Jonathan Kamm BA DipTP MRTPI (Managing); Martin Hawthorne BSc(Hons) MRTPI; Paul Evans DipArch(Dist) DipTP RIBA MRTPI; Nigel Schoolcraft ACCA

Associates: Sylvia Jezeph, Mark Carrington BSc(Hons) DipTP(Dist) MRTPI; Robin Shepherd BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI

BSI Quality Assurance: ISO 9001/BS5750 Registered Firm No: FS26663 VAT Registration No: 582960331

Reg. Office: HGP Planning Consultancy Limited, Furzehall Farm, Registered in England Reg. No: 2066641