

Meeting of the Action Group to Defend the Green

Held at Royal British Legion at 8pm

Chaired by Mrs Lynne Sims

and David Plumstead

Geoff German

Betty Garfield mintues

The meeting was opened by Lynne Sims (LS) and she welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the actual size of the proposed Leisure Centre then asked the audience to complete their name and details on the pad going round then LS passed to David Plumstead (DP)

DP explained that the planning application no; Y15/1136/SH has been lodged in Hythe Town Council by Shepway and has requested the Green at Portland Road be purchased or leased for 125 years DP explained that everyone should contact Shepway and OBJECT strongly and address them to Ben Geering Head of Planning at SDC

The actual area of the Green that is requested is the top part by Woodings and Portex. We have put an application for Village Green Status to KCC several people have already completed these and he asked for more applicants. A question was asked about the covenant DP said at the moment he is looking into it and hopefully he will have a strong agument for the council

DP is also using his conections with the media to advertise the plight of the Green. He explained that 3 places have been considered 1 The Green 2 Princes Parade and lastley Martello Lakes (Nichols quarry)

The most logical site is Martello Lakes it has the area and the infa structure is complete,the reason that Shepway has ignored this site is the Green can be started straight away and Princes Parade has a land fill and needs work to render it safe which will cost.

Geoff German (GG) took the floor he reliterated that we must be positive and keep the pressure on the council and make sure to write in as DP has said GG remarked that some people he has spoke to did not know that the Green was under threat so spread the word explain that it is not just a swimming pool but a centre that will be as big as Folkestone's explain that it will be 2 stories and cover at least 1/4 of the Green. The traffic will be extremely dangerous for the children using the Green to play at the park or just walking to school. This is not NIMBY (not in my back yard) the Green is for the people of Hythe for their children and their children we must stand together and be positive. GG stated that there is a council

meeting 15th Dec at Oaklands at 9.30 am he will be going to make sure that the planning application does not come up and on the 17th Dec at the Town hall at 6.45pm is a full council meeting GG will be going to that and he asked for anyone to go also even though the Green is not on the agenda to show we are keeping up the pressure

LS took over and took a question from Lesley Wybrow who is fighting the Princes Parade she stated that she could not advocate not building on the Green as they have been told that if not the Green it will be there LS replied that she could understand her comments but stated that we could get together and as a group so we could fight this together and put forward the Martello Lakes site as it was first.

Shepway have given Hythe Town Council to the 28th January 2016 for an answer

A comfort break for 20 minutes Everyone was asked to give a donation to assist the fight

The meeting was put to questions

A lad of 9 stated he does not want the build on the Green as he plays football there and he want be able to LS replied that we as a community will come together to fight this and we will stop the build he was thanked for his comments and asked if he could start a petition with his school mates

The covenant was again mentioned and DP again stated that the 1862 Covenant and he will let people know.

Rob Barlett asked where to we go from here DP stated that an action group to include up to 7 people to keep the pressure on the council and troll the web sites for any new material to contact people by flyers and posters to inform as many people as we can to go to the media and state our case

The meeting summed up the evening by stating that those people who live in the vicinaty and who have note recieved the letters from Shepway to inform of the planning to write in and object, to address the letters to Ben Geering and asked for a proper reply

The meeting closed at 10pm the money raised to help with fight ammounted to £320 a great ammount and it shows how people are so passionate regarding the GREEN