

NEWS LETTER FEBRUARY 2016

UPDATE REGARDING THE LEISURE CENTRE

It has been a trying time for all ardent Green supporters we used shoe leather and became hoarse with drumming up support for the Green

On 4th November 2015 Geoff and myself went to SDC meeting and was aghast when we heard two Councillors offer the Green for this travesty. We heard SDC put a motion to HTC for £1 for the freehold of the Green or a minimum of 125 years lease at a peppercorn rent, to be decided 31st January 2016

That was when Geoff and I rallied the troops in just 4 weeks of the notice we were able to send out flyers, put posters round and with the help of David Plumstead we started to look like an action group

We had a meeting at the British Legion on the 4th December 2015 and was amazed that we had so many people turn up and offer their services we also raised £320 on the night which was beyond our hopes

On the 8th January 2015 we had a Town meeting which was called by the people of Hythe. It was Chaired by Mayor Lyons and we had lots of people reading out for and against the build, the main reason for the meeting was to drum up support for a referendum but we were not aware until half way through the meeting that if we did call for a referendum if it was challenged the 6 people on the electoral role may have been liable to a bill of around £6,000 so we did not ask for one.

Since then we have been too meetings at the Town Hall on the 18th January 2016 we were informed of a motion, which I may add, not what was in the agenda, it was proposed by Councillor Dearden and seconded by Councillor Ewart-James, it read "to lease the Green at Portland Road to SDC for 75 years at a peppercorn rent and for SDC to have any legal cost that maybe incurred regarding the build"

To date the meeting on the 24th February 2016 at SDC to discuss the Green and Covenant will exclude the public from listening to the debate of document C/15/80 which is item 9 and 10 on the agenda

We have emailed several people at SDC to find out why and David P has asked why is this document an exempt item and what constitute an exempt document

We are now updating the website and looking in to a Pay Pal account as we need Funds if we are to keep the pressure on and look towards a solicitor who is an expert regarding covenants

That is up to date but we will still need your help this is so important that we keep the Green as an Open Space for everyone and not just a few.

The Leisure Centre will comprise of a gymnasium with a complete exercise machines etc.

An arena which will have 4 badminton courts with spectator's area

An aerobics/Zumba hall

A swimming pool with 6 lanes by 25 metres with spectator's area

A training pool 4 lanes by 25 metres

A wet changing area

A dry changing area

A café and vending machines

Offices and reception area

A car park which will hold 160 cars plus 2 coach parking areas The GREEN will lose The floodlight pitch that many young people use as well as older ones

The play area will not be a safe haven as it is because of the traffic

The area around will have increased traffic and it will be more congested as well as this we will have traffic from Fisherman's Beach

The new flats that are being constructed at the old Pink Bungalow site

And the new development at Nicholls Quarry which will be known as Martello Lakes this development will have a further 1050 homes

So the traffic problem will be immense the roads around this area will become a NIGHTMARE

So to sum up we as a society are not against a new Leisure Centre we are against any building on the Green

At the start of this travesty it was Nicholls Quarry which was first on the agenda for the build The developers have put aside land for the Centre which is 1.6 hectares and on the 106 agreement to their planning application SDC will get 3.2 million in total by the time they have built 250 houses and the amount will have gone up to at least 3.7 million. On the 28th October 2015 the Scrutiny committee voted for this site then on the 4th November 2015 it reverted to The Green so what happened to them ignoring their own advice, what happened was the three musketeers offered the Green

We say build it on the Nicholls site it is better for all the west side of the district and will benefit all of the Marsh which is often left out and the east side seems

to get it all. We know that South Road swimming pool is in need of a lot of work and it is in a state that the only answer is tear it down

So the monies from Nichols Quarry and the site of the swimming pool will fund the new Leisure Centre

Now we are being told by SDC and HTC that the Quarry is not viable because it will take too long, they say not till 2020 but if they are depending on the 106 monies how can they finance an earlier start to it.

Once again no common sense when it comes to Councillors

We will be having a meeting for the Society soon so keep glued to the website

Lynne