

EXCLUSIVE by JAMES CLENCH

SECRET plans for The Green in Hythe have been uncovered by an ardent campaigner.

As a result, an extraordinary town meeting has been called for Monday at 7pm to discuss them.

Peter Pickles, chairman of the Green Preservation Society, is behind the meeting being called, having got hold of a copy of a Kent County Council plan drawn up in February last year.

Mr Pickles said: "When the public meeting was called, the people of Hythe were under the impression that the only plan put forward was the Cheney and Thorpe one.

"It now turns out that Kent County Council had drawn up a plan for the area on February 8 1998 which somehow we never got to see."

Mr Pickles has called the town meeting to discuss three options: the Cheney and Thorpe plan, the Kent County Council plan and the option of leaving the Green as it is.

John Schoner, Mayor of Hythe and member of the working group, denied there was any cover up of the county council's plan.

He said: "We took the county council plan into consideration and parts of it are in the Cheney and Thorpe design."

Mr Schoner was keen to emphasise that nothing had been decided, but he hoped plans would be finalised within two weeks.

Hythe councillor Chris Capon said he believed the situation with the Green was getting out of hand.

"I'm on record a year ago as saying it's about time we did something. We should put new play equipment out there - at least that would be a start.

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