

Questions over The Green plan that need answering

WE WERE told at the meeting of Hythe Town Council on

January 26 that Hythe's current swimming pool has reached the end of its viable lifespan, and that it needs about £1 million spent on various repairs if it is to last for another five years.

We were told that this expenditure would not be cost effective and that Hythe needs a new swimming pool to be built as soon as possible.

We were also told that swimming pools run at a loss, and that any new pool would therefore need to be subsidised by a gymnasium plus fitness machines, a cafe and sports hall: in other words a leisure centre, complete with its own car park which would possibly be free for the centre users, presumably to avoid any parking by them in the surrounding residential roads.

Although the centre itself, if positioned in the extreme south-western corner of The Green, may not itself take up or affect a huge proportion of space, the proposed large car

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park and a possible new access road across The Green most certainly will - not to mention the damage and destruction caused by heavy vehicles during the actual construction of the centre and the fact that the covenant, whether legally binding or not, actually forbids any building on it.

We were also told that the new centre would cost approximately £8 million to build. Does this include the construction of the car park and any new access roads which may be deemed necessary, plus any adaptations to existing roads?

All roads surrounding The Green to the north and west are quite narrow and exiting them onto the A259 is extremely difficult. Presumably the expected £5 million will be received as soon as the pool site is sold, but how quickly will the remaining £3 million be available?

Is this coming from Sport England's possible grant and

will Shepway District Council still receive this money, even if the venue for the centre is changed from Martello Lakes to Hythe Green?

If the centre is built on The Green, will the possible money from the Martello Lakes developers no longer be needed?

We were told that this money would only be given, and the proposed site at Martello Lakes be ready, after the first 25 houses had been built - thus holding up the centre's construction and making the Martello Lakes site non-viable.

What does the statement "No further development to ever take place on The Green, except in conjunction with the proposed leisure centre" actually mean?

Can more of The Green be taken in order to extend the centre or to construct more buildings related to it at some future date, or sold to developers in the future in order to fund, maintain or expand the centre?

I would very much appreciate an answer to all of the above questions.