

Deputation Submitted by Ms Comerford

Good evening,

As a local resident and daily visitor to Staunton Country Park, I strongly object to the reservoir, that will without doubt, cause the death or severe injury to at least one of our children!

Our children will be drawn to swim here, no matter how many obstacles are placed in their way! Gates and fences will not be adequate to ensure safety.

We live in an under privileged area with NO amenities to keep youngsters from entertaining themselves, unfortunately this leads to mis-adventure and them risking their lives.

The concrete platform will be used as a fantastic diving board, used the same way as the hot walls tower and South Parade pier in Southsea are used during the summer months. As responsible adults WE should all be protecting our children and NOT increasing the dangers around them. Leigh Park has 8,418 children under the age of 19. All will be within easy reach of the proposed reservoir which will no doubt, at some point prove an appealing option for an evenings entertainment.

The water will be deep and extremely cold, this has proven to be deadly in other locations and NOT something that should be welcomed into the Leighpark area.

I was fortunate enough to have been able to attend a physical meeting 3-4 years ago at Staunton Farm, this was held by Portsmouth Water with their female representative leading it.

During this meeting I highlighted my concerns about the risks to lives, her reply was "CAN'T THEY SWIM". I was and am still utterly disgusted with her lack of empathy & concern towards our children.

Portsmouth Water have shown zero concern over any potential fatalities or disabilities, that are a possibility if this goes ahead. I only wish that I had the name of this representative.

Leighpark have been the easy targets, many residents are not aware of what is planned within such close proximity to their properties. Portsmouth Water have missed this as a facility as somewhere to swim and fish, this has now been disregarded in the plans but residents have not been notified adequately due to COVID restrictions, which has worked in favour of Portsmouth Water and allowed the changes to go virtually unnoticed by many. Fortunately there are a truly passionate group of residents that want to STOP THE CHOP.

If this reservoir is granted planning permission, Portsmouth Water and Hampshire County Council should be held accountable for any accidents. The welfare of residents has NOT been considered adequately and this reservoir which holds zero benefit for our community should not be considered.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Comerford