

Deputation Submitted by Ms Stevenson

DEPUTATION REQUEST PLANNING APP/20/00990

I am very much opposed to this plan. It involves the cutting down of many established native trees; many of which are (apparently) protected under individual tree preservation orders. This will result in the loss of significant area of habitat for wildlife, in addition to destroying the last remaining substantial meadowland which supports hundreds of bird, reptile, mammals and insect species. The replanting of saplings is of little compensation and the site will take decades to recover from the devastation caused.

This application should not be considered in isolation from other development plans, which will consume the attached land ie Hazelton Farm Housing estate, the commercial site to the north side of the Warren earmarked by PCC for the free ports storage site. It is only a matter of time before the intervening space is sold to allow for other developments. The Warren will then be utterly boxed in by houses, with no green spaces. The reservoir will consume the remaining pocket of accessible countryside servicing Leigh Park.

There are numerous paths which cross the meadow and woodland which will be lost and replaced with one path around the outside. This will be a health & safety risk as the one path around the outside of the new will be very crowded. There will be no tranquillity in the countryside and meadows that we presently benefit from. The same path will be there to service the needs of car users, walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Accidents are likely to occur.

The one good path which currently exists through the Thicket near Horndean will be tarmacked to bring cars onto the site. Essentially this will be destroying established woodland in order to permit vehicular access to a woodland! ~WE DONT NEED CARS IN THE WOODS - THEY DESTROY THE TRANQUILLITY AND DISTURB WILDLIFE.

People will be forced into their cars to get to the site. In order to enjoy this facility most people will have to drive to it because the walk itself around the reservoir will be too long to complete. Apart from losing the trees which are converting CO2 to oxygen, this plan will increase emissions by actively encouraging more car journeys. I am opposed to both entrance proposals which will cause congestion in the Warren, whilst reducing air quality due to slow moving vehicles.

There will be conflicting interests between walkers, horse riders, cyclists and car drivers. I am also opposed to the option of the entrance from Horndean Road, as this is a fast flowing road and will result in congestion and accidents if slower moving traffic is turning into or out of the site. The destruction of thousands of large, valuable trees for the construction of the entry roads is entirely unacceptable.

Carbon footprint v responsible planning. The UK is losing forests at a faster rate than the Amazon rainforest. We need to plant 1.5 billion trees by 2050, so it is not acceptable to consent to the wholesale destruction of significant areas of woodland in our town.

Leisure activities. The original plans implied that access would be given to improved leisure and this has subsequently proved to be untrue. The walking and cycling currently available are superior to what will subsequently be available. There will be no leisure access to the water, ie no boating or fishing. There has been a deliberate attempt to deceive the residents in order to gain support and positive comments in initial representations.

I do appreciate the need for longer term planning for security of water supplies, but given that there are many brown site alternatives to this location those should be investigated fully prior to giving consent to this devastating application. PWC should perhaps consider a desalination plant, especially as their headquarters are less than a quarter of a mile from Langstone harbour. Alternatively, as this water is planned to supply neighbouring local authority areas, the reservoir should be located accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Julie Stevenson