

Away Resorts – Written deputation

Planning Committee on 09 September 2021 5pm

Item 5a - APP/20/01127 - Mill Rythe Holiday Village

Members of the Planning Committee,

My name is **Carl Castledine**, Chief Executive of Away Resorts Ltd, the Applicant.

The application seeks to amend a previous planning permission granted under APP/16/01237 which allowed the siting of holiday caravans, refurbishment of the existing holiday chalets and a number of other works for the modernisation of the holiday park. However, despite our efforts, we have not found an economically viable way to convert the remaining chalets to a standard sufficient to provide the level of accommodation expected holiday makers in the 21st century.

Therefore, we seek members approval for the demolition of the remaining chalets and their replacement by holiday caravans of appropriate materials and colours that would be less visible from the harbour. As with the previous application, lighting will also be controlled to prevent dark sky pollution and nuisance to neighbouring properties. In replacing the two-storey chalets with one-storey caravans the proposed development will have less impact on views from and across the harbour AONB.

In order to ensure the viability of our plans to transform this aging holiday park through major investment in the accommodation and holiday facilities (as already approved), this proposal also seeks a slight increase in the total number of holiday units by 18. We understand that the small increase in caravans will be encroaching upon our former pitch and putt course which has been designated as a SINC, we therefore propose to repurpose the remainder of the former course as a dedicated nature reserve with a range of wildlife protection and landscape enhancement measures to create a net bio-diversity gain. In addition, we are happy to pay a contribution of £125,000 to mitigate any potential ecological impacts on the wider ecology of the harbour area.

I therefore hope that Members of the Planning Committee will support us in enabling the modernisation of this outdated holiday park to support the wider social and economic well-being of the local community whilst reducing the visual impact of the existing facility and providing a net-biodiversity gain through on-site and off-site measures.