

ref: 12//2021
Date: 06 May 2021

Mailto:
georgecrozer@me.com

Director's Office
Regeneration, Culture & Environment
Medway Council
Gun Wharf, Dock Road
Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR
Facsimile: 01634 331729
Minicom (text): 01634 331300
Email: richard.hicks@medway.gov.uk

Dear George,

Medway Council to reject plans to build a relief road on Deangate Ridge Golf and Sports Complex. We further call on Medway Council to retain Deangate Ridge Golf and Sports Complex as an asset that would further the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community such as a Country Park.

Thank you for your petition concerning Deangate Ridge Golf and Sports Complex.

The emerging Medway Local Plan is required to plan positively for the high levels of housing need set out in government policy. We are considering growth on the Hoo Peninsula as part of our proposed strategy for delivering sustainable growth across Medway in the new Local Plan. Sustainable development seeks positive outcomes for the environment, communities and the economy. As you will be aware, transport is a major factor for the Hoo Peninsula and in considering growth on the Hoo Peninsula, it is essential to plan for improvements in travel choice. The HIF programme provides for some of the investments for transport upgrades. The wider work on our new Local Plan will further consider how to deliver sustainable development on the Hoo Peninsula, providing land for homes, jobs, services, shops, community facilities, parks and open spaces. Decisions on future use of land will form part of the new Local Plan that will be submitted to Government for independent examination. Further information on the draft Local Plan and the proposed development strategy will be published this autumn.

We continue to consider and explore the long-term future of the former Deangate Golf Course and the adjacent athletics track.

The HIF-related relief road, which accesses the bottom corner of the former golf course is a key proposal of the HIF scheme and has been consulted on through the HIF consultation that ran between January and April this year.

We will be analysing the HIF consultation responses and will then be in a position to review the highway design proposals and respond accordingly.

The role that these two sites will play will be communicated in the forthcoming Hoo Development Framework. This will be a key document supporting the Local Plan publication draft and will help inform the range of community, residential and leisure opportunities that both of the Deangate sites can realise.

Until as a minimum, the Hoo Development Framework is complete and published as part of the Local Plan processes, we will not be finalising future land uses across either the former golf course or athletics track.

You (the lead petitioner) may ask for the matter to be reviewed by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee if the petitioner feels that the Council has not dealt with the petition properly. You should do this by giving notice to the Head of Democratic Services at the postal address above or by email (democratic.services@medway.gov.uk) within 10 working days of receiving the response. It would be helpful if you could provide reasons should you decide to request a review.

I hope that is helpful for you.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a period at the end.

Richard Hicks
Director of Place & Deputy Chief Executive