

Dear Richard and Democratic Services

Petition - 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 letter dated 6th May 2021 in response to the above aforementioned Petition.

As the lead petitioner, I write to you to invoke my right to ask for the matter to be reviewed by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I make this request as I do not believe that the Council has dealt with the petition.

The Council response letter to the Petition demonstrates a complete disregard of the Localism Act 2011 and the status of Assets of Community Value held by Medway Council on the following grounds:

- 1) **At no point in the petition response letter does the Council make any reference to the Asset of Community Value status of the site nor does it consider the impact of this status on the mentioned emerging Medway Local Plan, HIF Programme or associated public consultation, Hoo Development Framework or local plan processes.**

On 29th April 2018 Medway Council acknowledged receipt of a complete nomination under section 89 of the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act") to list the Deangate Ridge Golf Club and Sports Complex as an asset of community value. The nomination was made by Deangate Ridge Community Partnership an unincorporated body consisting of in excess of 21 members.

On 30th May 2018 the Director of Regeneration, Culture Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive accepted the nomination to list Deangate Ridge Golf Club and Sports Complex as an asset of community value. Accordingly, Deangate Ridge Golf Club and Sports Complex has been entered into the Council's Register of Assets of Community value.

Under the Asset of Community Value regime, you cannot just simply relocate an asset to an alternative site therefore consideration must be made of the ACV and Deangate site as part of the emerging Local Plan and HIF.

- 2) **The Petition called upon Medway Council to retain Deangate Ridge Golf and Sports Complex as an asset to further the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community such as a Country Park. This would have required the council in their response to demonstrate consideration, planning and a commitment to maintain the site.**

It is also noted, that whilst Medway Council confirmed a S106 agreement of £530k in January 2018 for the Deangate site. On 6th February the Cabinet agreed to close Deangate Ridge and also instructed officers to begin detailed planning of a new sports centre on the Hoo Peninsula (Decision number 24/2018) and on 28th March 2018 having taken into account the comments of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment overview and scrutiny and the campaigners confirmed decision 24/2018.

None of the S106 money has been spent on improving or maintaining the site. As Chair of the Deangate Community Partnership, the holder of the ACV, I can confirm that at no time since ACV status was confirmed, have we been consulted with regards to the emerging Local Plan and HIF.

The response makes reference to the role the Deangate sites will play in the Hoo Development Framework without explanation of who is preparing it, how it relates to the Medway Local Plan or whether there will be a public consultation that the public can fully take part in without the very real legal constraints the government have imposed as a result of the covid 19 Pandemic.

The petitioners strongly believe that the site is being deliberately left to dilapidate. The petition response letter from Medway Council ignores that ACV status and focuses on overarching development plans, none of which demonstrate any consideration to maintaining the Deangate Asset in the interim or future.

I therefore once again call for this decision to be reviewed by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Kind Regards

George Crozer

Deangate Community Partnership