



8th FAVERSHAM SEA SCOUT GROUP

Please reply to

Ivy House,
Priory Road
Davington
Faversham,
Kent ME13 7EJ

Dear Planning Committee

As set out in our original representation to this application, the 8th Faversham Sea Scout Group have no objection to the redevelopment of the Oare Gravel works, and welcome the repeated commitments the applicants have made to the continued use by the Sea Scouts of the site for their activities in the relocated location at this listed building hub.

However, we feel that the Planning Committee Report does not deal in adequate detail with issues of our concern:

Use - the report does not recognise that the Sea Scouts do not only use the site for boating and storage, but also as our headquarters at the WE Dengate Adventure Centre. This building (between the Gatehouse and the lake) is used throughout the year, at least 4 nights a week (by over 70 young people a week), as well as for overnight, weekend and week-long camps and for fund-raising activities. We have been using the site as such for over 40 years, including the use the lake. The Committee should be aware of this use and that the applicants have reassured us that this use will be able to continue. The Planning Committee Report currently refers to the use of the site by the Sea Scouts for storage and boating. This misrepresents the nature of our use of the site which is more significant than the report sets out.

- 1. Phasing - the report does not set out adequate details of the phasing of the project with regard to the Sea Scouts. Appendix 1 (which we understand has been produced by the applicant) states that the Meal Room building will be restored for the Sea Scouts in Phase 2 (which we welcome), but does not discuss the phasing for the demolition of our current headquarters. We would like a planning condition to be included which ensures that the Sea Scouts have continual use of the site and lake - from the demolition of the WE Dengate Adventure Centre to the relocation to the listed building hub. Interruption to continual use of the site would threaten the long-term future of the Sea Scouts in Faversham.*
- 2. Details - despite the detailed component of this application (related to the listed building) neither the application, nor the report, definitively set out which building is to be allocated to the Sea Scouts. We understand from correspondence with the applicants, and as set out in Appendix 1, that the Sea Scouts will be allocated the Meal Room building, however, no details on how this building will be adapted for our use are set out. Furthermore, no details on what storage and outdoor space (ideally fenced off to*

allow for security and child protection), including locations for access to the lake, are currently included in the application. We consider these details should be set out within the current detailed application.

- 3. We have a question about the proposed island created as wildlife habitat in the centre of the lake. Such an island would preclude use of the lake for boating. James Brett confirmed to James Wilson in his email of 3rd October 2014 that this island would be removed from the plans for this reason. We would like confirmation that this is the case.*

We look forward to continuing to work with Swale Borough Council and the applicant on the next steps of this development.

Yours faithfully

Denis Batson

Group Scout Leader