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Date: 22 October 2014

Mr. Peter Kendall  
Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments  
Kent, Sussex and Surrey  
English Heritage  
Eastgate Court  
195- 205 High Street  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU1 3EH

Dear Peter

**Re: Proposed Leisure Centre and Related Development at Princes Parade**

Thank you for letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014. I am pleased that you and the members of the advisory committee found the visit to Princes Parade and the surrounding area, on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014, informative and helpful.

Firstly, I should emphasise that the decision of Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 reconfirmed the position of the Council, as landowner, to proceed with more detailed development work to bring forward an affordable recreational facility (ARC) on the Princes Parade site along with the relocation of Seabrook School, and the provision of a protected area of high quality open space. This follows consideration, by Cabinet, of a number of reports and supporting documentation dating back to December 2012 that considered the feasibility of a number of site options. The May 2014 decision set a number of parameters for the continued development of the project, as listed below, and authorised officers to proceed with this work and to report back to Cabinet at the next appropriate stage.

- a) The ARC enhanced model, detailed in the report from Strategic Leisure, is adopted as the Council's preferred model;
- b) That a maximum of 36 town homes will be included in the scheme;
- c) That the proposed new school and pool sites are adjoined in order to minimise infrastructure costs; and
- d) That, at the appropriate time, a legally binding covenant be drawn up to protect the proposed parkland and open space from any future development proposals not directly related to the site's leisure and educational objectives.

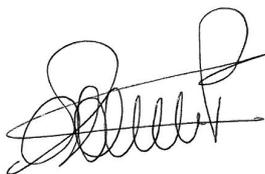
To clarify the issue raised in paragraph two of your letter, whilst it is accepted that a great deal of further design and other work is required in order to take the scheme forward, the Council is asking for English Heritage's continued input and views to shape the development of the scheme supported by Cabinet rather than the acceptability of any development on the site. The Council is aware that, as the landowner and promoter of the scheme that is seeking to enhance the experience of the area for the people of Shepway now and in the future, it will need to submit a planning application in order to secure planning permission and that any such application will need be assessed against adopted planning policy.

Your decision to postpone seeking the formal advice of the English Heritage Advisory Committee is noted, as is the request for further information from the Council. In addition to the draft policy wording that you have referred to in your letter, it would be useful if you could clarify what additional further information you would find helpful, so we can include those matters as the project develops. I would be very happy to meet with you to discuss this.

With regard to the local plan process I can confirm that initial 'regulation 18' consultation for the Places and Polices Local Plan is scheduled to take place in early 2015. Given that this is an early stage in the process the document is unlikely to contain detailed policy wording, as this will be included in the draft document scheduled for publication and consultation in mid 2015. The document will, however, seek comments on a number of options and questions related to the key policy areas of the plan for the district. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you once further progress has been made in terms of producing the draft document.

I welcome your offer to engage constructively with us and to deepen the dialogue and to this end would welcome you contacting Ben Doble on 01303 853345 or on [ben.doble@shepway.gov.uk](mailto:ben.doble@shepway.gov.uk) with a view to arranging to meet with myself and Dave Shore.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Priest', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Susan Priest**  
Corporate Director, Operations