

**Hearing Statement of Fareham Society on Inspector's MIQ20 on car parking provision at Locks Heath District Centre.****For Hearing Day 6 Matter 6.5**

In light of MIQ20 the Fareham Society would like to expand somewhat upon its concerns on the impact of the proposed development on car parking for the Locks Heath shopping centre.

As you will be aware the applicant applied for permission (P/21/0148/FP) for the reconfiguration of the access and parking to enable the future development of the 2 Local Plan housing allocations.

The Society objected to that application over concerns on loss of shopping centre car parking.

In its letter of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 said in this regard:

“It is essential that the current vitality and viability of this Centre is not prejudiced .....

It is crucial, therefore, that the proposed loss of 79 car parking spaces can be robustly justified. The applicant has sought to do this with a series of detailed surveys which, over the periods surveyed, show that even with the reduced parking proposed there would be sufficient to serve the Centre. However, the applicant appears to have considered only current parking requirements. There is no evidence that account has been taken of the fairly substantial development proposed in the Warsash area and the additional parking needs that would arise from that.

The Society is also concerned that the loss of the southernmost parking area to housing may remove an area of parking likely to be well used by shoppers and those using the centre due to its proximity to the shops and other facilities. The proposed retention of parking north of the Waitrose building may not be a good substitute as it would require a longer walk to the centre. Surveys to assess the potential impact this may have on the usage of the Centre should be undertaken before any decision is made.”

Following further information provided by the applicant the Society wrote on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to state:

“Concerns remain on the ability of the Centre to cope with parking requirements that would arise from the further substantial planned for development in the area. In part this is due to the findings of the appellant's surveys on current parking levels being at odds with the submitted observations of many local residents. Moreover, any recent surveys would be likely to reflect a temporary reduction in car parking arising from the COVID situation.”

The Society also stated that its concerns on the loss of the southernmost parking area for the reasons set out in its earlier letter remained.