

Hearing Statement of Fareham Society on Inspector's MIQ21 on car parking provision at former Locks Heath Filling Station**For Hearing Day 6 Matter 6.5**

In light of MIQ21 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 19th 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.”

Following further information provided by the applicant the Society wrote on 13th 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.”