

## Representation 4

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 13:34  
**To:** West, Jemma <Jemma.West@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Prince's Parade

Dear Ms West,

Thank you for your email & explanation of the Council's stance on this matter. I confess to finding it somewhat obtuse but I appreciate these things are a matter of interpretation. Clearly the business case is key to the viability of the proposal therefore critical to the final shape of any submission of a Planning Application for permission.

My concern is in the issue of the viability of the project as a whole & whether a shaky business case will be used to justify changes to the current proposal e.g. diminution of the housing element, especially the affordable/social element etc. or a change in the scale of the proposal to shore up a potentially shaky business case. If no one external to the Council is to be privy to the discussion of the business case, how can the community be assured that it is all soundly based and feel confident that problems will not occur 'down the line'? How is it to be monitored? In my experience "commercial sensitivity" can be used to shelter a multitude of sins!

I look forward to your reassurance that my concerns are groundless.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

On 14 Jan 2019, at 11:01, <Jemma.West@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>  
<Jemma.West@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for your email dated 21 December 2018.

I have now had the opportunity of considering the contents of your email and I have also discussed this matter with the Monitoring Officer.

The Council does not agree with your interpretation of para 9 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The Council is of the opinion that the exemption can still apply. This is because the restriction on exemptions at paragraph 9 of Schedule 12A relates to information concerning the planning process, rather than the Business Case.

As you are aware, the Cabinet meeting on 30 January will be considering the Business Case and will not be considering planning issues. Officers consider the details of the Business Case to be commercially sensitive. It should also be noted

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that the information being considered during the Cabinet meeting will not be part of the consideration as to whether planning permission should be granted.

It is, of course, for the members of the Cabinet to decide whether or not to exclude the public from the meeting. Objections to the exclusion will be placed before Councillors so they can take them into account. The public interest will also be considered prior to any decision on whether or not to consider the matter in private.

Kind regards

Jemma West  
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[www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 21 December 2018 16:31  
To: Jarrett, Andy <[Andy.Jarrett@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.Jarrett@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Prince's Parade

Dear Andy Jarrett,

I am writing to express my view that the discussions on the business case for the above project should be open to the public.

This project is initiated & driven by Folkestone & Hythe DC, representatives of the community of Folkestone, Hythe etc and the costs presumably funded by residents Council Tax contributions, therefore it is of interest to those residents to know how & why their money is being spent.

It seem to me that to exclude them is very high handed and completely unacceptable. The Councillors making the decisions have frequently demonstrated that they are out of step with the majority of their electorate, this would be a opportunity to redress that.

I look forward to receiving your comments on my suggestion.

In the mean time, have a Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A large, solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.