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ARUNDEL
West Sussex.
BN18 9DW**



Arun District Council,
Planning Department,
Arun Civic Centre,
Maltravers Road,
Littlehampton.
BN17 5LF.

September 2017

Sir or Madam,

“AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN ARUNDEL”

I see that there is a proposal afoot to build a *“complex of luxury flats for elderly people to buy”* here in Arundel.

To consent to such a proposal would be absolute and utter madness. Arundel does not need luxury flats or indeed luxury houses. There is plenty of such accommodation already. One only has to look in the windows of the plethora of estate agents in Arundel to see luxury accommodation both for sale and to rent.

What you will not find is living space at rents or prices which the ordinary 'man in the street', either young people or the elderly on state pensions can afford. And Arundel, indeed every community, needs such.

Since Thatcher's disastrous 'right to buy legislation' almost all Council accommodation has disappeared or been given to Housing Associations to manage at exorbitant costs. One only has to see the moneys paid to the directors of such.

If Arundel is going to be a 'community' in the true sense of the word, what is desperately needed is accommodation at rents which are affordable. If possible at rents according to the individuals' circumstances, and certainly without the ludicrous 'right to buy'.

Failure to provide such accommodation will result in Arundel and indeed similar towns becoming places of wealthy and inevitably elderly people. Who is going to clean the streets, cut grass or even wash up or wait at tables in the many restaurants?

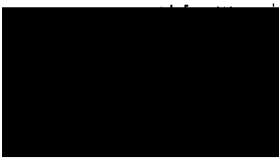
Unfortunately or perhaps fortunately there are folk who just want “affordable accommodation” without responsibilities or ambition and just want to get on with life.

Furthermore I note that these 49 luxury (*sic*) flats are to have but 37 car spaces. This 'arithmetic' in itself shows that the scheme has been formulated on the back of the proverbial envelope. The word luxury implies wealth and wealth in turn suggests two car families. More arithmetic then:-

49 flats x two cars each = 98 spaces plus an extra say 25 for visitors, cleaners, carers etc. = 123 car spaces. Car parking in Arundel, public or otherwise is already at a premium. This in itself is a reason for so refusing.

In fine therefore the scheme as it stands must be refused.

I will watch the decision process with interest.



T. Aldridge.