

[REDACTED]

From: Gez Watson [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 June 2014 16:25

To: Planning

Cc: Francis Oppler; Cllr Simon McDougall; Adam Cunard; Cllr Ann Smee; Ann Rapnik

Subject: Unit 4 Oldlands Way (BE/32/14/PL)

Importance: High

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Trees Estate Residents' Association to implore you to look at this application again.

We feel that the proposed Base Skatepark was one of the most exciting projects that has ever been proposed for Bognor Regis & that Arun District Council are being very short-sighted in not allowing it to proceed. With nothing else like it in the south of England has anyone stopped to think about the income this project alone could bring into this town? Young people from the towns around the area will want to access this facility, & likely others will travel even further. Did any of you see the article on South Today about England's first indoor trampoline park, where kids flock from miles around to use it – because it's unique? Well, the Base could be equally important as an attraction to the town & draw as much publicity.

Yes, originally the unit was part of Wileys, but it has been empty for years & it looks very unlikely that anyone will take it on as an industrial unit now. In that case why can't there be a change of use – to something that is wanted & needed in this area – an area with little for young people to do, meaning they hang around on street corners getting into trouble because they're so bored.

You are probably aware of the way the Residents' Assn has turned around the reputation of the Trees Estate. This has been done by sheer hard work: listening to what people want & what they feel; talking to & listening to the young people regardless of their ages; & trying to help them whenever we've been able to. We are acutely aware of the number of young people who ride their scooters, skateboards & BMXs over the kerbs at the edges of roads; most of them are sensible enough but we fear that a loss of concentration could lead to an accident & we wouldn't want that to happen. They aren't being 'naughty' doing this – they just don't have anywhere else that's safe where they can do this. The youngsters are distraught that Arun have decided to oppose the application for the Base, as they were so looking forward to using it – the parents were also looking forward to it opening so their kids had somewhere safe but exciting to go to.

We are aware that there was concern about the kids crossing the A29 to access the Base, but most of them have already been to McDonalds...now, shouldn't that site have been 'saved' for industrial use as it's part of Oldlands Way?

Please reconsider this fantastic opportunity for the town & the young people who live in it.

Yours sincerely
(Mrs) Gez Watson
Chair, Trees Estate Residents' Association.