

## **Economic Development Response**

BR/132/15/PL

Unit 9 Durban Business Centre Durban Road Bognor Regis PO22 9FE

Change of use from Warehouse (B8 Storage & Distribution) to Gymnasium (D2 Assembly & Leisure)

**Economic Development object to this application.** This unit is situated on one of the two main industrial areas in Bognor Regis. A recent survey, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015, reveals that there are only 3 vacant units in this area of which Unit 9 is one and total vacant units across the two main industrial areas in Bognor Regis is in single figures.

This unit is a good quality multi purpose industrial unit and whilst we accept that it has been empty for some months we have been in continuing discussions with the agents who advise that they have had interest in this and the other units, and if this proposal is not agreed they have an industrial business who are wishing to take the unit.

The application mentions a need for such facilities due to the recent closure of Fitness First. In our view since the proposed gym advises that they expect to only have 30 users at any one time it seems unlikely that this facility could replace Fitness First. Enquiries also reveal that existing gyms in the very near vicinity have the capacity to take new members.

The application is not from a local business who wishes to expand and the number of jobs created is not significant enough to have any effect on our view.

Miriam Nicholls  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2015