

Corporate Complaint Form

Title	Mr
First name	Joe
Surname	Lake
Address 1	7 North Avenue East
Address 2	Middleton-on-Sea
Address 3	Bognor Regis
Address 4	West Sussex
Postcode	PO22 6HQ
Email address	
Telephone number	

Details of the complaint

This complaint comes from Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council and I am the Parish Clerk.

This complaint relates to planning application M/80/19 Proposed Care Home:

There are a number of issues with regard to the above application that need to be addressed.

1) Closing Date for Comments on Planning Application

The closing date for comments in respect of this planning application was stated as the 24th October 2019 in the Weekly Lists of applications for Middleton-on-Sea received from Arun DC.

Following a review of the website it appears that a number of "rep letters" (comments on application) appear after the closing date.

From the closing date to the 25th November 2019 a total of 48 rep letters have been added to the website and on inspecting each rep letter 27 of these although placed on the website after the closing date they are dated on or prior to the closing date and so look to be correct.

This leaves 21 rep letters after the closing date of which 6 have raised objections and 15 are in support. When investigating all of the objections and support letters prior to the closing date they have all come from local residents who live close to the proposed development and have used the online system to notify Arun DC of their objection or support. This does not appear to be the case in respect of the 15 support letters received after the closing date, in fact they are not letters they are just slips of paper, and they have not gone through the online comment process but assume these have been sent to Arun DC for them to place on the website.

These 15 support letters we know have come from the applicant who has canvassed residents in the area. It is also interesting to note that the support letters have not come from residents who live close to the proposed development, they support the application as it does not affect them and they just see it as a good idea.

The issue here is why is there a closing date for comments on all planning applications. Arun DC Planning department response is that rep letters can be placed on the website up until a decision is made either by a planning officer or the Arun DC Development Control Committee if an application is passed onto them to decide.

Looking at Arun DC website under "Making Comments on Planning Applications" it makes no mention of this statement. This parish council and residents that wish to object or support an application always go by the last date for comments date and this is the first time we have become aware of this extension to the closing date.

Those rep letters that are after date can also register to talk at the Arun DCC committee if it goes to them for a decision.

2) Report of Arun DC Tree Officer

The website has a report from the Arun DC Tree Officer which I assume Arun DC have requested as a review of the tree report from the applicant. The tree at the entrance to the proposed site has a Tree Protection Order (TPO) and his report indicates that in his opinion the tree can be removed on the basis that the scheme compensates for its removal. He does not state that it is dead, dying or diseased and in our opinion the TPO should be protected.

This application and the previous application for houses both provided

remedies to leave the TPO in place and it appears that the proposed removal of this tree will make it easier for the applicant to enter the site.

What do you think the Council should do to put things right?

Investigate the following,

- 1) If comment made by Arun DC Planning department regarding the last date for comments can extend to any date, is this common knowledge amongst Parish Council, if not why not.
- 2) Why is this information about extension to last date for comments not on yellow planning application notices
- 3) How did the slips of paper for supporting this application come to Arun DC are these slips of paper an acceptable support or objection to a planning application, if so will Arun DC accept support or objection rep letters in the form of a petition if it has the correct information (name, address, support or object, reason, signed) and delivered to Arun DC for them to enter onto website.
- 4) Is canvassing by the applicant an acceptable way of gaining support, especially has the support rep letters will come from out of the area where the proposed development may take place, are these issues addressed by the planning officer or Arun DC DCC committee.
- 5) Regarding the Arun DC Tree report why has this been requested, the applicant as part of the application has sent in a detailed report, why is this not acceptable to Arun DC. Should not the Tree Officer just state if he objects or has no objection to the applicants report without making a report that assists the planning application by removing a tree with a TPO which will greatly assist the applicant. Does this not cloud the issue for planning officers and Arun DC DCC committee members?

Date

11/12/2019

Privacy Notice

Before you start we need to tell you what information we collect from you, what we do with it and who it might be shared with.

What Information is Being Collected

We'll be asking for your name, address and details of what you would like to complain about. You also have the option to give a telephone number and/or email address.

Why We Collect This Information

We collect the information so we can investigate your complaint and then respond to you. We ask for your address as our response is always given in writing.

You have the option to provide a contact telephone number or email address so we can contact you more quickly if we need further information. You don't have to provide these - we can still investigate your complaint without them.

Who Might We Share Your Information With

Your details will be shared with relevant officers who need to investigate and/or respond to your complaint.

What We Do With Your Information

We will use the information you give us to provide you with a response to your complaint.

How Long We Keep Your Information

Complaints that are concluded at stage one will be kept for 3 years. Complaints that are concluded at stage two or above will be kept for 6 years.

Your Rights

You do have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Full details including the name and contact details of our appointed Data Protection Officer can be found on our website [View Privacy Policy](#). If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data you should raise your concern with us in the first instance.