



THE DARTMOUTH & KINGSWEAR SOCIETY

For the preservation and promotion of good Civic Design and the protection of Natural Surroundings

Registered Charity no. 1038254

President: Sir Geoffrey Newman, Bt
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c/o the Flavel,
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7th December 2009

Landscape & Recreation Team,
South Hams District Council,
Follaton House,
Plymouth Road, TOTNES,
TQ9 5NE

For attention of Mr K Rennells

Dear Sirs,

Coronation Park Masterplan Public Consultation

Following the recent public consultation on developing a Masterplan for Coronation Park, we would like to make the following comments.

Before considering the three option layouts presented, we suggest that there are some important principles which should be borne in mind; these include:

- a) A good proportion of the overall area needs to be kept as open space, to accommodate major events (eg the Regatta marquee).
- b) The size and profile of the multi-use pavilion (and any other buildings, if proposed) should be very carefully considered with regard to its visual impact on this key part of the town. We are concerned that the building requirements have not been fully worked out and may not be shown to scale on the sketch plans.
- c) The dinghy park area needs to be clearly defined (eg with low fencing), tidied up and controlled.
- d) We do not support the relocation of the bowling green from its current site in Victoria Road; this was a unanimous view at the earlier stakeholder meeting. Thus we do not support the reservation of a space for a future bowling green.
- e) We suspect that the putting course has 'had its day' and does not need to be retained. Are there any figures for usage?
- f) Measures to control dog fouling would greatly increase the attractiveness of the Park to families.
- g) Improved signage, to the Park and at the Park, would improve awareness and usage of the facilities.
- h) It should go without saying that we are firmly opposed to any permanent car parking on the Park! We are reassured that none of the Options raises this possibility (we note the small reference to 'over-parking' on the Option 1 Pavilion and do not support this).
- i) We believe that the Park should be designated as a formal 'Open Space' (a 'Village Green') to ensure permanent protection of its status.

Regarding the layout Options presented at the consultation:

web-site: www.dandksociety.org.uk

- We do not favour Option 3, since it divides the area up (see a) above) and places a major building on the waterfront, partly blocking the view to the river from College Way.
- Evaluating between Options 1 and 2, the most important difference is the position of the pavilion. However there does not yet seem to be enough information on its size to reach a firm conclusion on this (see point b) above). There are clearly strong operational factors involved in both positions, particularly regarding the RNLI base. As a general principle the amount of building on the Park should be kept to a minimum; are there any other viable locations for the RNLI operation which they could consider at this stage? We do support the concept of providing toilet, changing and café facilities somewhere on the Park.
- Regarding other aspects of Options 1 and 2, some of the details in Option 2 do not look very attractive: for example, the isolated new tree planting in the centre, the straight East-West and North-South footpaths and the tennis canopy.

We trust that these comments are helpful and will be taken into account in firming up a Masterplan for the Park; please contact us if you would like to discuss our views further. We are particularly keen to receive further information on proposals for the multi-use building, as noted above. As you will be aware, Coronation Park is regarded as a key feature of Dartmouth which deserves careful attention from all concerned, and we welcome your efforts to draw up an integrated Masterplan.

Yours sincerely

RDH Twigg

Doug Twigg
Chairman