

Jill Peet
Interim Spatial Planning Manager – Planning Policy
Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street, Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 3HT

Dated: 3 rd April 2020

Dear Ms Peet
Re: Interim Planning Policy for Holiday Homes

Please consider this to represent my personal response to the consultation in lieu of response from further members of Sheerness Town Council.

To summarise I wish to lodge objections to the current proposal on the following grounds

- The proposal suggests that in making changes enforcement of the current rules could be relaxed removing the need to take action against parks presently not recognising restrictions
- The Isle of Sheppey already has many Holiday Parks acting as unofficial residential parks. The current system is flawed with many using friends and relatives homes as “main residence” whilst living at these parks throughout the open season. Those presenting as homeless and criticising the closed season do so after knowingly entering into such an arrangement possibly and providing false information.
- The proposal ignores the contribution Holiday Parks make to the Island economy and seasonal employment catering for tourists.
- Holiday makers and Residential Homes do not sit well together. The prospect of mixed use with little to no enforcement as currently the case, is fraught with potential issues.
- Whilst the standard of these Park Homes is higher than a holiday home it is less than ideal and the prospect of such homes being the answer to lack of affordable homes in a area of severe social deprivation is unacceptable. I have little confidence that such an issue would not arise when already occurring under the radar at many of the holiday parks
- the current Covid 19 situation has illustrated that some Parks will disregard regulations if not monitored
- I do question why this idea of “Residential Parks” is focussed upon the Islands existing tourist parks and not other rural areas around Swale.
- The current lack of affordable homes on the Island is supported by the current policy that permits sites to come forward with 0% affordable homes. With the Islands average household income way below national average the current homes are attracting “incomers” rather than providing for local housing need. To provide a lower standard of homes for those unable to afford what is currently available we will further add to the overall strain on infrastructure.

Cllr Matthew Brown , Chairman Sheerness Town Council
Cllr Chris Foulds Chairman of Finance and Governance

Signed copies to follow:.