Planning references: HBC APP/24/00311 EHDC ref: 51680/11

I wish to express my deep concerns at some of the changes to the reservoir that have been recently proposed.

Firstly I'd like to flag up the recent style of piecemeal planning applications. I am concerned that this way of getting something passed by planning and then putting in a flurry of separate smaller applications spaced apart but all linked to each other, is disingenuous. On their own the changes are not especially significant but when placed all together change the nature of what was originally passed.

This is what is happening with the Havant thicket reservoir.
The plan of a nature hub for residents of Havant and Leigh park is drastically being changed to meet the agenda and not for the local people who will be seeing this monstrosity.

Many people when questioned still are expecting water sports and a nature leisure zone. The latest changes that Portsmouth water have proposed seem to be moving further away from this and towards a more industrial reservoir.
I object strongly to the off shore valve tower.

Firstly having a big concrete valve tower set out in the reservoir to be seen from most view points gives the whole reservoir a much more industrial look - not the naturalistic look that was originally proposed. It's going to ruin the natural setting.

The original plan was in keeping with woodland setting and historic park landscape - this plan undermines it.
The original siting of it was incorporated in the banks - I cannot understand why this had been changed - I don't think it's made clear enough in the application.

Secondly, one of my major concerns, having two children myself and with the reservoir being in close proximity of several schools - is safety.

Realistically teenagers hang around bodies of water and I believe a valve tower just off shore will be a great temptation for kids on summer's days to try and swim out to - whatever the warning signs say!

This also brings the need for secondary access to the valve tower, that is not included in this application and to me should be, as they are inextricably linked.

Having a bridge to a valve tower increases the likelihood of children diving off and so increases the risk of drownings.
There is also the issue of part of the feeder stream to the Hermitage stream being reduced.

You probably won't get many objections to these changes as PW are playing them down and the majority of people don't really understand the implications of them.
I'm relying on the council planners to dig into the real reasons for these changes and make sure they are not just laying the groundwork to incorporate receiving partially recycled effluent as part of Southern Waters plans for the reservoir!