

Dear Mr Weaver,

I commented before on the previous application and am frankly astonished that this is still ongoing. This is a really well cared for venue, one that I have been visiting for the best part of 25 years for events and to use the cottage. My businesses have used Tournerbury extensively for corporate hospitality purposes over the last 25 years and I am more than happy to provide sworn testimony at the Appeal Inquiry if I am asked to do so, backed up by invoices, receipts etc.

Over that 25-year period, I have witnessed first-hand the huge environmental improvements at Tournerbury. When the applicants took this on, much of it was basically an overgrown flooded swamp with very little biodiversity and little habitat eco-system services present. The cottage was unusable, the land was overrun with vermin (hundreds - yes hundreds) of foxes and there was hardly a songbird or ground nesting bird in sight (the trees were full of magpies and Jays).

It is now a wonderful environmental example of positive sustainable regeneration; it is carefully looked after and managed and should be a standard bearer for the AONB that Chichester Harbour Conservancy should look at and aim towards.

If only all of the harbour was managed in the way Tournerbury is, we wouldn't have the ludicrous 'Chichester Harbour Conservancy' fiddling while Rome burns (the Natural England Report, State of Chichester Harbour 2021 map, which was presented in the Design and Access statement tells you everything you need to know). If you determine this application negatively then I hope the looming Appeal Inquiry is live streamed as I very much look forward to seeing the 'Conservancy' under forensic cross examination flapping about trying to justify why Tournerbury should be closed (on environmental grounds) whilst the 'Conservancy' clearly can't conserve a cuttlefish. People in glasshouses anyone?

I have also read through the traffic analysis on the previous application and this application and find it frankly laughable to suggest that the access to this venue is inadequate! I have driven in and out unhindered for 25 years. I have never been stopped as a result of cattle being moved (what cattle? Are they talking about the no more than 20+ cattle that spend at the very most a couple of late winter months in a barn and the rest of the year are nowhere to be seen?), nor for that matter have I ever been hindered by any 'Farm yard activity', in fact, the only time I have ever been inconvenienced is when I have driven through the thick clouds of acrid, foul smelling smoke that makes you want to wretch coming from the waste burning site tucked away at the back of the farm (which I presume has permission from all relevant authorities (including yourselves) to burn plastics, fences, household detritus and general waste from all the builders that I have seen dumping material here for burning over many years?). Whichever authority consented to having a household / builders waste burning site at this location is clearly environmentally blind; it is situated within a few meters of the heronry at Tournerbury Woods and as a keen birdwatcher when I have stayed at Tournerbury during the heron nesting season I am frankly appalled at the polluting effects of this – if it is fully consented and 'legal', it most certainly shouldn't be. And why any self-respecting 'farmer' would operate this on their land within a few tens of meters of an open barn used to store haybales is simply beyond mystifying. Moaning about Tournerbury event guests allegedly 'smoking near hay barns' when vacating the venue, even if there was even a shred of truth to these allegations, is so intensely hypocritical it's almost as if Allegra Stratton and the Downing Street Press Office advised them to say this.

In summary, my view hasn't changed - this venue provides a huge number of jobs for the local community through its multiplier effect and in an employment sector (hospitality) that has been devastated by the pandemic and with the cost of living crisis looming is unlikely to reach a full recovery for some number of years. The weddings and events generate the income for what I imagine is a very large environmental annual upkeep bill and the access to the site always has been, and still is more than adequate.

For local context within the Borough on suitable / satisfactory venue access, I have also visited Hayling Island Sailing Club over many years to attend a large number of functions. HISC is accessed by a track "that doesn't allow for two way traffic along its length" with water on either side and no lighting at night! That access road serves a) some residences (more than at Tournerbury) at its narrowed single way traffic flow start, b) it serves the RNLI station (one of the busiest in the country) and c) it is also a very busy Public Right of Way (heavily used on every occasion I have visited with a lot of dog walkers present, even in darkness).

Given that there is a really substantial licenced premise at the end of this access (HISC) and that HISC is not only a vibrant sailing club (with I believe thousands of members including families and children) but also a very busy wedding and events venue; it has hundreds of events a year (if not thousands in total), that involve alcohol and merriment both during the day and late into the evening, I'm not aware of any wholesale carnage and accidents happening, so why should Tournerbury be any different? I

Why can't you just let these people get on and run their business and all the positives it brings to the Borough and stop this ridiculous planning stagnation. On any reasonable analysis of 'planning balance' the benefits of the business far outweigh the demands of an angry neighbour pretending to be 'a farmer' who seems to deny that when he purchased the farm, (and one imagines he must have been advised by his solicitors), he bought it with an all-encompassing Right of Way, and now he wants the Council to remedy that situation, because he 'doesn't like it'. **That is NOT the job of the Planning Department of Havant Borough Council.**

Isn't Havant Borough Council supposed to be promoting and encouraging regeneration of Hayling and the Borough rather than crucifying an already established paragon of it?

I draw your attention to the fairly recently published "Draft Ambition for Hayling Island Seafront" published by your Council colleagues which states on its introductory page –

"The local tourism sector has great potential to contribute to the local economy, attracting significant visitor spend and supporting over 4,500 jobs across the Borough. The potential growth in the staycation market provides another fantastic opportunity to support a vibrant economy."

It then goes on to say, -

"We want to encourage high quality development and the creation of new facilities, including an improved leisure offer and a stronger commercial proposition – one that is sustainable in the long term and supported by a clear brand and identity. We want to protect and enhance the precious natural environment, and create a happy, healthy and vibrant place."

Well the Council have got all of their above stated ambitions handed to them on a plate at the Tournerbury event venue, already sustainably proved as viable and environmentally sound over a long period of time. If the Council wants to put its words and ambitions and messaging in public

presentations into real world actions on the ground, it should have granted permission to
Tournerbury last year and in lieu of that it should just get on and do it now

