PLANNING APPLICATION RESPONSE OF PLANNING POLICY

Application No:	15/01243
Site Address:	Former Scout Hall, 4 Meyrick Road, Havant, PO9 1NN
Development:	Demolition of former Scout Hall and erection of 2No. 3 bedroom houses.
Case Officer:	Daphney Haywood
Comments by:	Sarah Hains
Date of Comments:	15 December 2015

Policy Status

Policy DM2 of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) seeks to resist the loss of community facilities, unless it can be demonstrated that the building is no longer required or fit for purpose. Policy DM2 requires that marketing of the premises is carried out for a period of at least 12 months to ascertain whether there are any other community uses who would be interested in the building.

Proposal

The planning statement submitted in support of the planning application explains the marketing which has been carried out in respect of the Scout Hut. This is supplemented by a summary of the marketing carried by Henry Adams Estate Agents. This information shows that there has been limited interest from alternative community uses and that none of these expressions of interest have resulted in a lease or sale of the building. The marketing has been carried out over a period of at least 18 months and it is therefore considered that the requirements of policy DM2 have been met.

Officers in the council's Community Team have confirmed that they are aware the building has been marketed through the Central Havant Network and that there has been no interest as a result of this. The Community Team has no objection to the loss of the facility based on the fact that the building is in a poor state of repair and that there has been no interest from alternative community groups.

There is no policy objection to the proposed change of use.