

I am Tony Sweeney, a Chartered planner and the owner of Millngate, a South Coast based, family owned company, who have specialised in working with public bodies on the regeneration of derelict land for over 20 years. We are the owners of the Brockhurst Gate site.

I first visited the Site over 10 years ago and how Gosport has come on since then! The new Leisure Centre; the transformation of Rowner; the rapid transit bus system to name but a few. I want to continue this Gosport revival, knowing our scheme will contribute significantly to the ongoing health and vitality of the Borough. A view clearly shared by many National retailers and the local population.

Since being invited to apply for planning permission in 2016, YES INVITED, negotiations with Gosport have been very positive and encouraging, with all parties working hard to agree the final scheme. We believed we had a policy compliant scheme that could be delivered by December 2018. This all all changed on the 9th August with the release of GVA's retail report.

We have a 100% track record in negotiating planning consents and for the first time, find ourselves with the possibility of facing an appeal. If you are unable to grant consent tonight, I would urge you to fully consider the potential loss of 300 retail jobs; 200 construction jobs; £400,000 of CIL, £600,000 pa of business rates; the clawback of £11m of trade; two excellent new football pitches plus changing rooms (which is supported by Lee Rangers) and 2 acres of open space, and overturn the officer's recommendation, which is solely based on a weak and inconclusive retail consultants report.

We can deliver a gateway scheme that Gosport can be proud of - just like the Leisure Centre opposite!

I will now pass you over to one of our retail partners, James Mitchell of Lidl.