

I will not be attending the Panel but ask for the following statement on behalf of Southampton Commons & Parks Protection Society to be submitted to the Panel.

Southampton Commons & Parks Protection Society, SCAPPS, is disappointed it has to submit this statement in support of the recommendation in the report -- disappointed that the applicant has not accepted the concession offered by the Panel in July 2019.

SCAPPS objected to the 2019 application to remove the obligation in the section 106 Agreement requiring public access to the waterfront walkway at all times. SCAPPS did so because it supports the City Council's policy that when development takes place on the waterfront, public access should be secured. There are far too few opportunities for Southampton residents to gain access to the waterfront; every opportunity is precious, and those who know this Quay2000 site will know the outstanding and attractive views from the walkway up & down the Itchen.

SCAPPS reluctantly acknowledges the reasons for the concession offered by the Panel in July 2019. 'Reluctantly' because anti-social behaviour is unfortunately an occasional problem in some public open spaces. Only a tiny minority of users of parks, paths and open spaces cause that disruptive activity. To withdraw public access is an extreme measure to be considered only when all other measures have failed. It penalises the majority who, with no detrimental impact on other users or nearby residents, enjoy using that space.

The applicant has installed gates and is prepared to enter into a management agreement specifying when and how they would be locked and unlocked. The dispute is confined to hours of closure. SCAPPS asks the Panel to remain firm in sticking to the hours specified in the July 2019 decision. SCAPPS was unaware until seeing the report of the applicant's amendment to the proposed hours of closure. SCAPPS remains of the view that closure at 8pm in summer and 4pm in winter is too early when for much of the season daylight extends beyond those hours. SCAPPS supports the Panel's proposal of opening at 7am in the morning and opposes the applicant's request the gates remain locked and the waterfront walkway closed until 8am.

SCAPPS therefore asks the Panel to accept the recommendation in this report.

Graham Linecar
Secretary SCAPPS