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Date: Monday, 23 March 2015

Overview and Scrutiny  
Town Hall  
Castle Circus  
Torquay  
TQ1 3DR

Dear Member

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2015**

Enclosed are the papers which were circulated at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on Monday, 23 March 2015.

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
4.	<b>Petition requesting covenant for Cary Green</b>	(Pages 13 - 16)

Yours sincerely

Jo Beer  
Overview and Scrutiny Lead



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Dear Cllr. John Thomas,

As the Chief Executive of the English Riviera Tourism Company and author of the adopted Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay Strategy, I am writing to support the proposed development by Harbour Hotels further to the 'call in' to Overview and Scrutiny.

The fact is Tourism destinations operate in an increasingly competitive market place and if Torbay is to be 'fit for purpose' in the future we need to move with the times and diversify our accommodation choices so that we can attract new visitors.

Over the past four years we have seen year on year growth in both the value and volume of Torbay's Visitor Economy. Moving forwards this growth is forecast to continue with international inbound predicted to grow at an unprecedented rate.

However, if we are to capture our share of this growth we need to ensure that we have sufficient capacity in terms of the right choices of accommodation on offer.

The Turning the Tide for Tourism Strategy identified the lack of Quality Spa Hotels. Harbour Hotels could now fill that gap, building a superb new development and restoring the much loved Pavilion building, currently closed for the 4<sup>th</sup> summer!

I whole heartedly support this project in principle. I respect that parking provision is a particular challenge but believe that this matter should not be allowed to stop progress. The parking matter I am confident can be overcome.

Yours Sincerely,

Chief Executive Officer

March 23rd 2015

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.**

Chairman - Councillor John THOMAS.

(verbal 3 minutes)

Good morning everyone.

As Chairman of a local Civic Society it is unusual for me to write in support of a developer. However, the Torquay Harbourside project which includes restoration of the Pavilion, is seen as so important to Torquay and to Torbay Civic Society that we have on no less than three occasions gone public to state that without any plan "B" in place, we believe the Pavilion could well be lost. The Pavilion is already facing its third season of closure, and restoration is now wholly dependent upon the current project going ahead.

When the Council closed the Pavilion during the 1970's, a small group of residents "The Friends of the Pavilion" were formed, which later became Torbay Civic Society. I was a founder member of both groups. Having helped save the Pavilion once - a Listed Building, its closure again merely proves Torbay Council's difficulty in establishing a permanent and sustainable use for this building, even though over the years, it has been granted permission for a number of uses.

My Society members have in the last two years been polled twice, in the stark realisation that Cary Green might have to be sacrificed, in order that the Pavilion can be saved. A restored Pavilion with a permanent use - public concourse to the hotel, cafes, a restaurant, spas and other public areas, as well being the only access to hotel guests, means EVERYONE gains.

By supporting the Mayor in his refusal to grant a covenant on Cary Green, we hope that the Hotel and apartment development and the £2-3 million spend in order to restore the Pavilion would go forward quite quickly.

To those who suggest that Cary Green is a much loved and much used public space and as someone that regularly visits the nearby bookshop on the site, I would refute that. Cary Green was used for parking a long time ago and with the development of a modern day concrete water feature and then a ziggerat, the so called park now has little historic features of significance. The Nicholas James Group have already given your planners an undertaking that "special events" would be allowed on Cary Green at certain times of the year, and there is also agreement that the new landscaping will bring new seating, trees and walkways and that there will be no white marking across the vehicle areas. In all, the area could become an added feature or additional asset to residents and visitors alike.

Ladies and gentlemen - please do not be swayed by the emotion of the petitioners, they do NOT represent any sort of majority of local residents, yet should this project stall again, the likelihood is that you will leave your town with another decaying eyesore for many years to come.

Thank you. Ian L Handford

**From:** Lanscombe House  
**Sent:** 22 March 2015 20:26  
**To:** Thomas, John  
**Cc:** Scrutiny  
**Subject:** Cary Green

Dear Cllr Thomas

It has come to my attention that other groups have made representations to the Scrutiny Board regarding Cary Green. I would like to make a statement on behalf of the Neighbourhood Forum for inclusion in any discussion by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on the future of Cary Green.

Our Neighbourhood Plan for Torquay will protect certain community green spaces from development; Cary Green has been identified as one of our Community Partnership's green spaces that requires this special protection. The Neighbourhood Plan is not against developing the Marina Car Park to a building that is of high quality and sympathetic to the historic surroundings; however the use of Cary Green for a car park is not supported.

I would hope that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and its importance as a key Planning policy document, as well as the clear wishes of the community, inform any decision to dispose of Cary Green for a car park development.

Leon Butler  
Chair Neighbourhood Forum

# Agenda Item 4

## Appendix 10

Sent: 23 March 2015 07:16  
To: Gurry, June  
Cc: TTCCP; Lanscombe House; Julie Brandon; Pat Bishop  
Subject: URGENT - Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting Monday 23rd March 2015 - Letter from Susie Colley as Chair of the Torquay Chamber of Commerce

Dear June,

I write with regard to a letter dated the 19th March 2015 brought to my attention yesterday written by Susie Colley in her capacity as Chair of the Torquay Chamber of Commerce and sent to Cllr John Thomas in advance of today's Q & S Board meeting. The letter can be accessed below:-

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/documents/s22941/Letter%20of%20representation%20from%20Chamber%20of%20Commerce.pdf>

I wrote yesterday to Cllr Robert Excell, one of our local ward councilors who is shown on the letter headed note paper as a member of the Torquay Chamber of Commerce (as the Torbay Council Representative) to ascertain whether he or any other Chamber members had been consulted on the contents of the letter before it had been sent.

He confirmed late yesterday in an email that he had not been consulted on the content of the letter. That is extremely worrying.

Having witnessed the undemocratic manner in which Susie Colley has conducted herself whilst Chairing both the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan Forum before she was recently dismissed and the Torre & Upton Community Partnership and given the Torquay Chamber of Commerce's website and Facebook pages appear to have been inactive for at least 12 months, it would appear the contents of the letter from Susie Colley as Chair of the Torquay Chamber of Commerce may actually be nothing other than her own personal opinions and not those democratically agreed by Chamber members.

Any attempts to join the Torquay Chamber of Commerce go unanswered.

There appears to be no public record or minutes of any meeting held to discuss the issues covered and the clearly un-researched opinions conveyed in letter sent by Susie Colley and for that reason, I would request the letter is withdrawn from submission to members today.

Regards,

Mark Hoyle  
Torquay Town Centre Community Partnership