

Subject:	Portslade Town Hall Site – Letter from Councillor Hamilton
Date of Meeting:	2 May 2013
Ward(s) affected:	Portslade South

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

For the attention of The Chief Executive, Penny Thompson

Letter to be placed on the agenda of the next Policy & Resources meeting, to be held on March 21st.

PORTSLADE TOWN HALL SITE

In 2010 a decision was taken by the Conservative administration to sell off half of the Portslade Town Hall site in Victoria Road, Portslade. This was to be part of the Workstyles 3 programme. The theory was that Portslade Town Hall could become a “community hub”, and that the council offices, public toilets, second Bowling Green and car park could all be sold off as a development site.

I am writing on behalf of all the Portslade councillors asking that the car park, and possibly the public toilets, be excluded from the development site. I have repeatedly raised the issue of parking at Portslade Town Hall, but to date have received no positive response.

At present there are about 36 parking spaces on site, and they are needed, especially as there is no bus route along Victoria Road. Last Friday the Mayor had a charity event at Portslade Town Hall, and there were 29 cars in the car park. On the following afternoon Portslade Community Forum had its AGM at Portslade Town Hall, and there were 34 cars in the car park. Yet under the proposals to date there would only be 10-12 parking spaces, hopelessly inadequate.

The council offices and bowling green could easily accommodate a block of flats, at least half a dozen. The land could be purchased by HRA and affordable units be built. The existing toilets and bowls pavilion could stay as they are and the accesses retained.

The proposal appears to be that there will be council offices in Portslade Town Hall, so staff will need to park. There is talk of police having an office on the premises, so they will need parking spaces. Visitors to council offices and police will need to park. Attendees at public events in whatever rooms are still for hire will also need to park. We advertise the main hall as capable of holding 150 people. When my mother held her 90th birthday party there 100 people attended and the car park was too small for all the vehicles.

From April to September the bowls club uses the green at the rear of the Town Hall. On match days there can be 32 bowlers playing in a match. Most of these come by car because of the lack of a bus service and the weight of their four woods. On most summer days there are bowlers on site playing internal club competition matches.

Clearly reducing parking to 10-12 spaces is a non-starter. I am seeking the common sense and pragmatic solution, namely that the council offices and Bowling Green become the development site, and that the rest remains as it is now.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Les Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cllr Les Hamilton

Supported by Cllr Bob Carden, Cllr Penny Gilbey and Cllr Alan Robins.