

14th April 2017

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie Iggulden

It has come to my attention that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I understand that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation. I believe there may have been an announcement in a local paper, which would only reach those people who read it cover to cover.

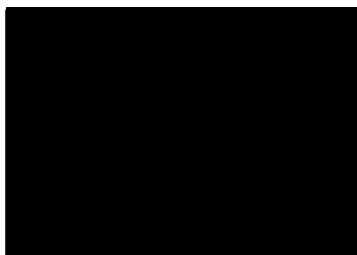
Since moving to Tonbridge we have been impressed with the amount of open spaces for people to enjoy. I have often walked through this stretch of land with my grandchildren on our way to or from the park.

I understand that this area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area.

It is also my understanding that other Borough Councils in the area have taken a different approach to solving the funding gap. Apparently Sevenoaks is now self-sufficient. Can our councillors not learn from them?

We moved here five years ago and during in that time there has been a proliferation in building of flats. Do we really need more on this particular area of recreational space? Personally, I think not and would object to any such scheme.

Yours sincerely



Dear Ms Iggulden,

I object to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am concerned that I only knew about this because my children attended clubs at the Teen and Twenty and that they were given notice to quit because of the intended doctor's surgery.

Land belonging to the council and ultimately the people of Tonbridge should not be sold off without the consent of constituents. I note that there have been no planning notices up in the surrounding area nor in the local newspaper, The Tonbridge Courier. It has been brought to my attention that notices were put in the Kent Messenger. As far as I am aware this is unavailable to buy in the Tonbridge area and certainly does not have a broad readership as the Tonbridge Courier does. Council owned land, within a conservation area, should not be sold off, underhand, without a formal public consultation.

I am against the sale of the land within these areas because they are public open spaces and used by the public. Both sites are susceptible to flooding. The parking is inadequate in both areas – you only need to take a look at the new blocks of flats in New Wharf Road to see what a huge problem it is. This is publically owned land. The council are only the guardians of it and I believe you should not be entitled to sell it off to the highest bidder against the unheard voices of the Tonbridge residents.

The River Lawn area would benefit from improvement and has been neglected for a long time – I wonder if this is the reason. Once this and the River Walk area is sold, you can never get it back so you should really think very carefully about who would benefit from such a sale.

Neglected areas need to be bought back to life and improved for the benefit of everyone. Improved lighting, benches and perhaps a small childrens play area would be more suitable.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'. I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Katie Iggulden

3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 08:57
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Riverlawn Developments

Dear Katie,

I recently learned that the River Lawn area in Tonbridge is earmarked for development into housing. I understand that historically, this area was low quality housing, and was converted to a open space for the community to enjoy.

I am concerned that the area is being sold off without any consultation with the local, or wider community.

It seems irrational to sell off such a lovely public space for short term profit, without any consideration of the long term benefits of an open and green space in the centre of the town. I believe that whilst perhaps under-utilized at the moment, it should remain in public hands for use by the community.

I understand there is a massive burden on local government to provide a large amount of housing in the coming years, but, to avoid Tonbridge turning from green to grey and having the feel of yet another London suburb, it is vitally important to do this carefully and with the long term character and vibrancy of the area in mind.

Many thanks!

[REDACTED]

Ann 4.

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 11:43
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn

Dear Katie

I am writing to state my opposition to the selling of yet more of Tonbridge's beautiful green areas and gorgeous old house in River Lawn. Tonbridge has already lost an enormous amount of it's character in building of flats and apartments and infrastructure is struggling. We need green space to help combat high levels of pollution in town and to aid mental welfare. The house in River Lawn could be converted to a museum to shout about our diverse history and become another tourist attraction.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from Windows Mail

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 07:49
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Tonbridge River Lawn Redevelopment

Dear Ms. Iggulden

As a Tonbridge resident I would like to log my objection to the sale of the River Lawn and the old CAB building.

Please can the council consider using the old CAB building for community use, or approve it to be developed into a hotel or something else to benefit the town. We do not need more luxury flats when the town's infrastructure is not in place to support them.

I know I am not alone in my objections.

best wishes

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

4/16

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2017 22:06
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Objection

Hi Katie

I have just found out that the river lawn area may be up for sale for development, I strongly object if this is the case.

Tonbridge as a former market town is slowly losing its identity and fast becoming an outskirts of London, while I understand the need for the council to make money, and the need for extra housing, I don't understand why such a lovely piece of land with old trees and friendly squirrels would even be considered for sale, that bit of land is the last piece of lawn the town side of the river, with the new Doctors surgery going there, leaving the patients the north end of town a two mile journey to see a Doctor then I am sure the river lawn would get used even more, please please do not let this site be developed.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2017 15:34
To: Katie Iggulden
Cc: Jon Botten; Benjamin Elks; Russell Lancaster
Subject: Objection to proposed sale of River Lawn and former CAB building sites in Tonbridge

Hi Katie,

I understand there is currently a proposal for TMBC to sell off the River Lawn site and the former CAB building to private parties. I therefore wanted to write to express my objection to this proposal.

I believe the council would be making a grave mistake by selling these public assets for a one-off financial gain. The high street already suffers from high levels of pollution, and so the ability for pedestrians and cyclists to use these sites to walk through and for leisure is especially valuable. Over the last few years we have seen more and more sites next to the river in the town sold to private owners, mainly for residential development, which means that the community is losing the right to access this land. The sites proposed for sale are attractive nature areas which provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, and the existing buildings are in keeping with the look and feel of our traditional market town. Many residents enjoy using these areas and are very concerned about the proposals, as well as the lack of consultation by the Council / Cabinet about them. This area also suffered badly from flooding in recent years, and so it is far from clear whether building is even safe or recommended.

I would prefer the council to adopt the successful strategy of Sevenoaks council who have invested in their assets for a sustainable financial return for the future. In contrast, TMBC have a poor track record in achieving commitment to affordable elements and other community benefits of developments, and of enforcing these commitments down the line. TMBC should be investing to improve the facilities available at these assets to increase their value to the community - by installing more benches, litter bins and ensuring the lighting is turned on in the evenings so that the bike paths can be safely used. If any further development were to be deemed suitable, then TMBC should be funding this themselves so that they retain control over this land and any future financial benefits would be for TMBC and our community - not a private owner.

I would appreciate a response to indicate you have received this message and registered this objection. I would also like to understand when and how the council next plan to communicate their intentions regarding this proposal.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2017 12:30
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Objection for River Lawn and River walk

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

9

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2017 12:06
To: Katie Iggulden

Dear Katie,

I am writing to object to the planned sale of the river lawn green site, tonbridge.

Tonbridge does not need another block of flats/restaurants or whatever the land will become once sold. Please reconsider and reserve our natural space for the wildlife and community to enjoy.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 16 April 2017 14:17
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn, Tonbridge

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie,

I am strongly opposed to the sale by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council of the land they own at River Lawn and River Walk, Tonbridge. As far as I'm aware there has been no public consultation on these proposals and it seems to me shortsighted in the extreme to sell public assets to plug a gap in revenue funding.

I do not object to the creation of a new medical centre on the site of the Teen & Twenty Club - this will provide a facility the town needs but the Borough should retain ownership of the land for the community.

I object strongly to the sale of the adjacent River Lawn site - this is a valuable green space, linking the High Street to the river. It has clearly been neglected and could be improved at relatively little cost.

To sell it off for the development of riverside apartments would be a dereliction of duty. The river is perhaps Tonbridge's greatest asset - lining it with apartment buildings will further damage the town's character.

The building and site previously occupied by the CAB, nearer the castle, is also I understand proposed for sale. This is a building that adds character to the local scene and has potential as a riverside cafe or for another community use such as a town museum. Again, to sell the site for housing would be a terrible mistake.

I call on TMBC to put this decision on hold and carry out a proper public consultation. Thank you.

Kind regards,

[Redacted Signature]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 April 2017 12:16
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Objection to TMBC's plan to dispose of land at River Lawn and River Walk

Dear Katie

I understand that you are the person with whom to lodge an objection to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's proposal to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has as far as I can tell been little to no attempt at public consultation.

There are a few specific reasons for my objection, beyond the general principle of selling off valuable community assets for short term gain:

Scouting

I am a lifelong resident of Tonbridge and have experienced first hand the benefits River Lawn gives to the town. I was a member of the 1st Tonbridge scout group, whose HQ is in Lambert's Yard a few yards from River Lawn, from the age of 6 to 21. Throughout that time I regularly and consistently made use of the Lawn for a wide range of activities: games, pioneering, tent pitching practice and perhaps most importantly fundraising fairs, especially our annual May Fair. My son is now a member of the 1st Tonbridge too and I am pleased to see they still make just as much use of the space as they ever did. The loss of River Lawn would be hugely detrimental to the three scout groups located nearby (the 5th and the 14th being the other two).

Building massing

Should the land at River Lawn be sold, it will inevitably be for flats to be built there. Due to the risk of flooding the ground level of these flats will necessarily be a car park, meaning the building itself will be multi-storey and higher than anything in close proximity to it. This is ok east of the High St where there are more buildings of this nature, but at this location it would be overbearing.

River Lawn, as well as the old Citizen's Advice Bureau site, which I would also like to object to the sale of, is within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'. As an Architect, I am unconvinced that any development of the size that will bring a return high enough to entice a developer can satisfy that requirement.

Trees

River Lawn, and the path alongside the River, contains at least 15 established and mature trees. It acts as a buffer zone between the activity of the high street and the openness of the park. The replacement of these trees with a residential development would be a huge loss to the town.

Parking

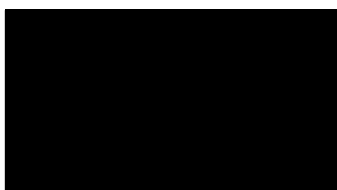
I do not know whether the plans include selling off the car park at the end of River Lawn Road/Lambert's Yard too but if they do I also strongly object to that. It is a very useful car park for short visits to the High St and Larry full. I also worry where parents will park to collect their children from the scout hut were it to go.

While I recognise the need for the council to liquidise assets to raise desperately needed capital, I strongly believe a greenfield site in the centre of town that is demonstrably a community asset is too high a price to pay and should not be lost to the people of the town forever.

Rather than selling River Lawn off to a developer who will only be interested in their bottom line, it should be recognised as the community asset that it is. With a little bit of investment (lottery money perhaps, or even private funding?) for improved lighting seating etc, in parallel with the redevelopment of the adjacent Teen & Twenty Club site into a state of the art medical centre, it could become an even more valuable asset to the residents, workers and visitors of the town.

I have rarely feel as strongly about something to write to register an objection, but this is something I cannot allow to happen if there is anything I can do to prevent it. Once River Lawn and the River Walk site are sold off, they will be lost to the Tonbridge community forever. Despite the urgent need for more funding for the council, to sell off assets like these is short-sighted and irresponsible. Were it to go ahead, I am confident it would be hugely regretted in a few years' time.

Yours sincerely



Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 20:59
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Tonbridge

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation. I am against the sale because I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Katie Iggulden

13

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 20:30
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Selling River Lawn to developers

I hope the rumour going round that the Council is going to sell River Lawn is not true, can't believe we need more flats in Tonbridge - or more congestion in our "improved" High Street. [REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

14

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 20:22
To: Katie Iggulden
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to the sale and development of River Lawn Tonbridge and the CAB building

Dear Katie,

I am emailing to express my concern and objections to the sale of and development of the River Lawn and CAB sites in Tonbridge.

This area is a natural extension of the park and considerable development has already been undertaken along the side of the river and open spaces like this that are regularly used by the public should remain in the public domain and open for them to use.

If the council is looking to enhance these areas there are plenty of options the council can consider that would better serve the local community.

As previously mentioned Tonbridge has seen a large amount of flat developments many of which line the River (near the locks, old BT site on canon lane, the retirement flats by the CAB, and Avebury avenue where the old TJ rugby club use to be). Tonbridge does not need more development near the water, people need to be able to see it and enjoy it.

I do hope the council will consider the public use and our concerns to this sale and development and perform a public enquiry as to the sale and future use of this area.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 19:55
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn

katie.iggulden@tmbc.gov.uk

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 18:26
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn and at River Walk

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am against the sale because I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'. I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

17

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 18:24
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Development

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale as Tonbridge has reached saturation point of redevelopment in the centre of the town especially in the area of apartments.

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch, relax and it could serve as a space for a weekly local market etc.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 18:23
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Town Land Sale

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of residents of the town and that there has been no attempt at public consultation. I am against the sale because it will detract from the Tonbridge town centre and significantly alter the general street view of the areas.

River Lawn has been neglected for some time so I believe that this area would benefit from improvement, similar to that already undertaken for the Town Lock and River Walk areas. This could involve the introduction of picnic tables and lighting, which would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch or just some peace and quiet while visiting our town centre. The River Lawn building is a significant feature of the riverscape and demolishing it would significantly change the character of the area and really alter the outlook from the fantastic castle.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and my understanding is that any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'. There has already been significant development, particularly flats, in the town centre and more blocks of flats certainly does not enhance the area or provide any significant enhancement to Tonbridge itself.

I know homes are required as Tonbridge is a prime place to live, I myself having moved here from the Midlands. However there are other areas of Tonbridge that are brownfield sites that are more suited to development without detracting from the appeal of this area.

I do not accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

19

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 13:40
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre. This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 13:38
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: river lawn

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre. This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 09:54
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn plans from a Tonbridge resident of 67 years

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

22

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 09:40
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: The Old Citizen's Advice Bureau building

To Katie Iggulden...
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Dear Ms Iggulden

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because I really think we need a Tonbridge Museum in a present historic building. I'm so upset about all these lovely buildings being neglected and torn down. I mean, what about the old Warners building? Or the lovely one which had pigeons living in it for so long. We could have a really lovely quaint town which would bring more visitors if the Castle and areas surround it were more tourist friendly.

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre, or to eat at in our lunch hour.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes (and I expect everyone else in the area except those wanting to make a fast "buck")

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

23

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 09:31
To: Katie Iggulden

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation. I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre. This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 09:19
To: Katie Iggulden

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I have lived in Tonbridge my whole life, 15 years of which was in a flat in Tonbridge High Street, the River Lawn was our back garden and we used it daily.

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction new benches and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre. Perhaps allowing an ice cream cart or sandwich stall to be there in the summer would also bring in some revenue.

This area is within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 April 2017 07:14
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Sale of River Lawn

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ

14/04/17

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because having seen the monstrosity that has appeared opposite Waitrose supermarket in the form of ugly high rise flats please do not do that to River Lawn!!

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'. I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 04:33
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Disgusting selling of our town

Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 00:20
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn and at River Walk

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 23:14
To: Katie Iggulden

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 20:11
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River lawn objection

I strongly oppose the development of this piece of land for flats. Firstly Tonbridge has enough flats now and there are plenty that have been built already alongside river locations. Secondly this piece of land has always been available for the public to enjoy and should continue to do so. This land would benefit Tonbridge as a community space, perhaps a small stage area (band stand for community groups to use and for locals to enjoy local talent) or sensory garden area, or small lido (as we used to have) or picnic tables or a regular venue for the farmers market. A building put on it would make the area feel very enclosed and intimidating to navigate around (particularly when dark).

Sent from my iPhone

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 19:34
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Sale & development of river lawn

Dear Katie,

I am writing this email in absolute disbelief that the council are considering developing river lawn. I am so heartbroken that this will go ahead as, I as a child was taken there to play and sit to watch the ducks etc. My mother grew up in Barden Road and also played there, courted there and took us there as kids. She told me all her childhood memories of having a favourite conker tree there and how she stood on the wall throwing sticks to try to get them to fall down. In the war years she used to cut through there to go up to the market which was cattle in those days, so she could watch the cattle being sold. I lost my mother last year to cancer, which was hard to bear, and now you want to take these places of memory away. To bridge is a concrete jungle of flats that like my mum's cancer is eating away our town. To bridge used to be such a place of character but now it is somewhere where these fat cat councillors can walk away rubbing their greedy hands together with the money they have made. They have no feeling for the residents of To bridge. We do NOT want anymore flats. People will not be able to afford them so I ask, please, please do NOT go ahead with this. I'm totally heartbroken

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 17:19
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River lawn Tonbridge

Dear Ms Iggulden,

I wish to register my objection to the proposal to dispose of land at River Lawn in Tonbridge. I am a lifelong resident of Tonbridge having been born in the Slade area. I worked for many years in Tonbridge job centre and from the top floor you can see River Lawn in all its beauty. I also have fond memories of standing in that area looking at the River with my parents and subsequently my son. It was there that we stood and watched the river rising in the terrible floods in 1968, along with other Tonbridge residents.

People need space in Tonbridge not more houses which will be marketed at people from outside the town rather than affordable homes for people who already have family here. What brings people here and why we like living here is the area around the river, the undeveloped parts. The area you propose to dispose of was flooded only 3 years ago or had you forgotten? This is why, if you know the history of Tonbridge, the centre of town was traditionally not built on - look at earlier maps, my geography teacher discussed this in her lessons back in the 1970's, I'm sure if she was still alive she would be shaking her head at the daft developments which have appeared along the river in the last 20 years. A lot of faith has been put into the Leigh flood barrier protecting the town but it has failed twice since 1995 and the town was flooded to the surprise of people living in the flats in Avebury Avenue.

Please think again, surely there is land in other parts of Tonbridge & Malling which can be sold to raise money, why is it always Tonbridge which suffers?

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

32

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 17:07
To: Katie Iggulden
Cc: Tom Tugendhat
Subject: Objection to River Lawn Sale

To Ms Iggulden,
cc'd to Tom Tugendhat, MP

I am writing to voice my objections to the council's shortsighted plans to sell the land at River Lawn for developers to build residential accommodation.

I do not object to the sale of the Teen & Twenty as I do think a more central medical centre would benefit local residents (although as a Barden resident, and member of the Barden Residents Association, I am extremely concerned about the inadequate parking planned having a knock on effect on our streets).

I am however baffled that the council consider River Lawn being developed for housing would benefit locals? Yes, it has been left to become run down by the council but with some landscaping, better lighting and seating areas it would be a pleasant place for locals. I do not drive so prefer to walk around our town and use this cut through daily rather than the busy high street, as do many locals including the children at Sussex Road Primary School (where I work) who use this as a safer route to walk to their weekly swimming lessons or for local trips.

We should make the most of our river banks; building "high quality" flats here aimed at commuters will merely block our views and if they are anything like the new ridiculously high flats being built in Barden will be an ugly blot on our landscape!

As a Barden resident the Christmas 2013 floods are always in mind; cutting down the mature trees here and adding yet more concrete can only be a flood risk, and will put even more demand on the antiquated drainage. The sale of this land can only be detrimental to Tonbridge and the council must surely realise this.

#KeepRiverLawnGreen

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 14:23
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: FAO: Katie Iggulden - Objection to the sale of River Lawn

For the attention of Katie Iggulden

I am writing to register my objections to the sale of the green area of River Lawn in Tonbridge.

I have been a resident of TMBC since 1996 and have lived in Tonbridge since 1996. Over the years I have used the River Lawn area many times - to walk my children to Slade School & Sevington Playgroup, having picnics with the children, then taking my children to see the squirrels, pigeons and other wildlife and have a little run around. Sitting & having a coffee with friends. Many people including myself and school walking buses use it regularly as a pleasant walk through the town with views of the river and the bigger park beyond as opposed to walking up the High Street. The area is appreciated and used by local residents and visitors to town and is easily and quickly accessible for office and shop workers to enjoy their lunch, meet friends etc

Any sale of this area, particularly if it results in any building works would be detrimental to the town and the area. Views to the park have already been blocked by residential flats along Barden Rd and Avebury Avenue and all the extra building is putting extreme pressure on the infrastructure of our town, including all the extra concrete making flooding more possible and likely.

I would like to see TMBC enhancing the area with more lighting, more seating and maybe some other creative ideas so that full use of it can be encouraged.

I am disgusted to find that the plans are in place and yet I haven't seen or been notified of any public consultation regarding the sale of the land. The River Medway running through our lovely town should be viewable, accessible and usable by everyone and should be enhanced to allow for this, not just for those people who are able to afford to buy properties that overlook it.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2017 08:09
To: Katie Iggulden

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

35

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 09:11
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: AREA OF LAND AT RIVER LAWN ROAD TONBRIDGE
Attachments: River Lawn letter.doc

Dear Katie,

I give below the formal response of Tonbridge Civic Society. This to be read in association with my correspondence yesterday relating to the advertisement placed in the Kent Messenger and the attached letter to Nicolas Heslop.

"I am responding as Chair of the Tonbridge Civic Society to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's invitation to submit comments and objections to the Council's proposal to sell open space at River Lawn, Tonbridge.

The Society understands the need for the Borough Council to sell land in order to raise money and is in principle willing to accept disposal and development of part of the River Lawn site. However, as explained in the attached letter to Councillor Nicolas Heslop, we believe that a better development could be achieved, and part of the open amenity space - including several mature trees - could be preserved, if the proposed development was built on a different alignment using the small car park adjacent to Lambert's Yard and the northern end of the road. We therefore object to the proposed disposal in its present form and ask the Council to consider our alternative proposal."

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Chair, Tonbridge Civic Society

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 02:00
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Green Party objection to River Lawn Sale
Attachments: tmbckatie.igguldenriverlawn21.04.17.docx

Dear Katie

Tonbridge & Malling Green Party believes Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has been both short-sighted and unambitious in its plans for the redevelopment of sites at River Lawn in Tonbridge. We are also concerned about a lack of transparency around the process.

TMBC has taken the decision to sell land and buildings in River Lawn Road and River Walk in Tonbridge, following a review of its assets. The Council says the review "aimed to identify potential redevelopment opportunities that would benefit the community, improve services and provide financial return." This sale will leave TMBC impoverished in the long term.

This deal is in fact a fire sale of assets to help balance the books. Rather than retain land and buildings in public ownership and explore opportunities to generate sustainable income over the long-term, TMBC has chosen to sell assets for a one-time gain.

This important site is not mentioned in The Way Forward, the document which is supposed to "guide and manage future development in the Borough up to 2031." Neither are the sites identified on the Call for Sites map, produced as part of the Local Plan process. We want this site to be subject to the same analysis as the other areas being considered for development.

TMBC also announced that it has: "... agreed to sell some adjacent land in River Lawn Road for potential residential development" and "nearby land in River Walk has also been identified as suitable for new homes and will also be put up for sale." There are currently over 900 households on TMBC's housing waiting list. We are concerned that when an opportunity presents itself to develop social housing, the council's first instinct is to sell land to the highest bidder.

We are challenging the legality of this process as you have failed to advertise your notification in a newspaper with a circulation covering the area in question.

The Council should be insisting that any housing built on these sites includes genuinely affordable homes for sale and rent but that will not be the case.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] Vice-chair Tonbridge and Malling Green Party

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 09:01
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Tonbridge

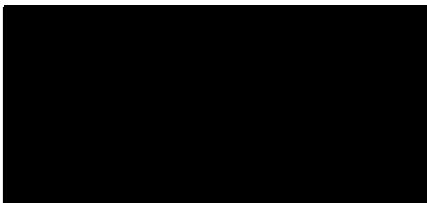
Dear Madam

I would like to add to the growing number of people objecting about the future of River Lawn and the old CAB building.

Please at least consult the people that live in Tonbridge before making more decisions about our town.

I took a walk around the area yesterday, I cannot believe you are thinking of building on this spot of greenery by the river.

the trees look beautiful at this time of year.
Thankyou





Katie Iggulden (BSC HONS) MRICS
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building, Gibson Drive
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent, ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie –

I am a resident of Tonbridge and I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the ‘disposal’ of public land at River Lawn in Tonbridge.

I understand from the TMBC website that the initial plan was for a parcel of land measuring 432sqm was to be disposed of, in order to “facilitate the development of a medical centre, which consists of part of an open space”, according to the original plans, consultation on which closed in March 2017. Few would argue that in Tonbridge, there isn’t a serious need for new public services. I know for instance that Warders Medical Practice is massively oversubscribed, and I assume the same to be true of others practices. I had no real objection to the initial plans because of this.

In the latest plans for River Lawn however (which close today) it says that the ‘disposal’ has been extended to 2184sqm, and will include the land right up to the river bank. If, as I understand, this means the loss of public access to that side of the river, then that is unacceptable.

There is also no longer any mention of a medical centre in these new plans; it is merely states that the land is an “intended disposal”.

I would like to place on record two observations:

- I. The fact that the plans apparently constitute an open-ended sale with no provision for a new medical centre (when the need for this was identified in the initial plan, closed 24 March 2017) is troubling. I think most people could reconcile the loss of 432sqm of public green space to provide a public good such as a medical centre, especially since the original plan retained access to a valuable patch of green space and crucial access to the river.
- II. But the new plan for River Lawn involves the loss of an area of land five times bigger than that outlined in the original proposal, with no benefit to the public for the loss of this space. If, as has been rumoured, this land could be sold for ‘luxury flats’ then the impact on public services would be exacerbated. Tonbridge would lose a key piece of green space – one that is frequent use by local workers, as well as by my family. Furthermore, one of Tonbridge’s key qualities – its green spaces – would be substantially diminished.

Yours Sincerely,



Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 15:43
To: Katie Iggulden
Cc: Vivian Branson
Subject: River Lawn

I am writing to register my objections to the sale of the green area of River Lawn in Tonbridge.

I believe that although this area has had its fair share of anti-social behaviour in recent years the answer is not to build on the land and thus exclude the public but to improve the area.

I would suggest some of the following; better lighting, levelling the area and repairing the grass (left in a poor state following the work on Bewleys weir) adding some more seating, maybe some small level of landscaping, flower beds, all these simple things will encourage the public to make more use the area, as it has done along Medway Wharf and River Walk.

River Lawn is a walk through for many people as they follow the river, building here would be a terrible step backwards in the progress being made in improving the town.

[REDACTED]

Barden Residents Association



Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ

21/04/17

Dear Katie

The Barden Residents' Association object in the strongest terms to the councils plans to sell the green spaces at River Lawn. Having attended a cabinet meeting on 9th February with a colleague we witnessed our ward councillors argue the case for keeping this plot of land as a 'break out area' to be enjoyed by people enjoying their lunch or to be frequented by customers of Nancy's Tea Room. We were hoping to ask for sympathetic refurbishment of this area with new picnic tables and the installation of LED lighting in the evening to make the area more welcoming at all time of the day.

It is our belief that this area has been deliberately run down since it was used as a building yard while the weir was reconstructed. The floodlighting at the nearby sports court in the Racecourse Sportsground has not worked in years and so people tend to hang around River Lawn in the dark as they have nowhere else to go. Because the area is unlit people get the impression this is an intimidating area, this would be easily remedied by illumination of both the court and the pathways at River Walk and River Lawn. With a little imagination this would be an attractive amenity area.

The proposed sale of this area with the intention to allow residential development will mean the open aspect of the grass and trees will be lost forever, certainly the view leaving the High Street via Lamberts Yard will be much diminished. The area is rich in wildlife and many people enjoy the Squirrels, Pigeons, Crows and Jackdaws some of which are hand fed visitors.

We are extremely concerned that this sale takes no account of the serious drainage and sewerage issues that plague the locality, the area was seriously flooded three years ago and there are outstanding legal matters to be settled over responsibility which will be jeopardized by premature development, as this land is within an area at risk of flooding we consider development unsuitable.

The sale of this land by TMBC is counterproductive to the council itself, it makes no financial sense to sell to a third party to build high-end apartments here. If the council is committed to destroying the natural habitat here why does it not commission its own construction of rented accommodation to ease the pressure on young families and single people who are currently being forced out of private rented housing nearby? The leader of the council himself has bemoaned the local shortage of reasonably priced rented housing and when an opportunity arises to fill the gap itself, or in a partnership, TMBC's first option is to sell for a one off payment. Where is the logic?

To illustrate our opposition we have conducted an online petition which you can access at <https://www.change.org/p/tonbridge-and-malling-borough-council-halt-the-sale-of-the-river-lawn-and-property-in-river-walk-without-consultation>. Including our ongoing paper petition well over 1,000 have already signed. Please also note that the Keep River Lawn Green Facebook Group has over 1,700 members and this has been achieved while TMBC has done its best to keep people unaware of its plans.

Lastly it has come to our attention that this process is invalid as TMBC listed the legal notification erroneously with the Kent Messenger newspaper. This publication does not have a Tonbridge edition and its own literature indicates that our town is well outside its delineated circulation. We refer you to the relevant legislation:

Section 123 of the 1972 Local Government Act - reads as follows:

A principal council (TMBC) may not dispose of any land consisting or forming part of an open space unless before disposing of the land they cause notice of their intention to do so, specifying the land in question, to be advertised in two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated, and consider any objections to the proposed disposal which may be made to them"

We believe that TMBC has an obligation to re-advertise this intention to dispose of the land in question.

I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

 Chair Barden Residents Association

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 13:03
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn, Tonbridge Planning Objection

For the attention of Katie Iggulden

I am writing to register my objections to the sale of the green area of River Lawn in Tonbridge.

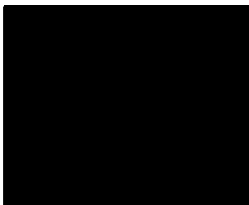
I have been a resident of TMBC since 1987 and living in Tonbridge since 1993. Over the years I have used the River Lawn area many times - to meet friends during my teenage years, then taking my children to see the squirrels, pigeons and other wildlife. Many people including myself and school walking buses use it regularly as a pleasant walk through the town with views of the river and the bigger park beyond as opposed to walking up the High Street. The area is appreciated and used by local residents and visitors to town and is easily and quickly accessible for office and shop workers to enjoy their lunch, meet friends etc

Any sale of this area, particularly if it results in any building works would be detrimental to the town and the area. Views to the park have already been blocked by residential flats along Barden Rd and Avebury Avenue and all the extra building is putting extreme pressure on the infrastructure of our town, including all the extra concrete making flooding more possible and likely.

I would like to see TMBC enhancing the area with more lighting, more seating and maybe some other creative ideas so that full use of it can be encouraged.

I am disgusted to find that the plans are in place and yet I haven't seen or been notified of any public consultation regarding the sale of the land. The River Medway running through our lovely town should be viewable, accessible and useable by everyone and should be enhanced to allow for this, not just for those people who are able to afford to buy the properties that overlook it.

Kind Regards



Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 12:17
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Proposed Sale of River Lawn

Dear Katie,

I am writing to you in connection with the proposed sale of the land currently occupied by the Teen and Twenty club and River Lawn. I am against this for several reasons....

1. This is a publicly owned green space with several mature trees. It is nice for the public to be able to walk along the river here. Mature trees are an asset both to wildlife, environment and people. These could not be quickly replaced, as they have taken many years to grow to that size.
2. It would be good to have a new medical centre in the middle of town, but it will also bring parking problems. I was present at the council meeting when this was discussed. Both Judd ward councilors brought up the topic of parking. The proposal is for 22 parking spaces below the new medical centre, and for new flats on an additional part of River Lawn. 22 parking spaces will be insufficient for a large medical centre, and the new flats will also want parking. There simply is not enough space. As a member of Barden Residents Association I know that problems with parking is the most frequent discussion on our forum. Despite being near the station many residents have no option but to own/drive cars because they need them for their work. They already report problems finding a space, despite having paid for a residents' parking permit. Extra cars looking for parking spaces can only add to this problem.
3. If the council sells this land they will never get it back. In my opinion they would do better to rent or lease the land where Teen and Twenty club is (as is being done with property in neighbouring T Wells and Sevenoaks) and keep a steady income from the rental while still retaining their assets.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

WON 43

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 07:47
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River lawn tonbridge.

Dear Kate.

I am writing to object to the sale of the land called river lawn in tonbridge. This area should be protected. It is a lovely area to sit and watch the river, eat lunch in the sun and relax. The weir nearby has recently been renovated and I feel strongly that tmhc has purposely left this land to waste so they can sell it. However there are approx 7 large trees on this piece of land. It could be made a lovely town asset if made a community project. I feel strongly that every tiny area of space in tonbridge is currently being sold off to build more and more flats! Tonbridge is a market town, not a London suburb. You are stripping this area of its natural beauty to provide unaffordable housing for locals and we are losing the towns little spots of potential beauty. With some better lighting and benches this could be a lovely area for people to use. I was born and bred in tonbridge and have seen so many changes and not all for the better. This sale of land for flats is criminal. Myself, my children and I hope one day my grandchildren have all enjoyed playing on this land, watching the weir, feeding the squirrels and pigeons here, or just sitting on the wall. There are so many other areas in tonbridge that need developing. This should not be one of them. As a resident of tonbridge and malling for over 40 years I strongly object to the sale/development of this land at river lawn.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Katie Iggulden

44

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 21:13
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: sell off

I am disgusted with the plans by TMBC to sell the green space at River Lawn, to a developer to build apartments. Also the old Tonbridge Council Office building on River Walk without Public Consultation. I am sure the locals will remember this at the next local election.

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 April 2017 10:42
To: Katie Iggulden
Cc: Frixos Tombolis; Tom Edmondston-Low
Subject: Objection to proposed River Lawn sale and development

Dear Ms Iggulden

I am emailing to express my objection to the proposed sale and development of River Lawn and the CAB building.

Firstly, this is a lovely public space in the middle of Tonbridge and the CAB building and parking could be retained and used for public purposes. I believe the riverside and all adjacent walkways should be retained for walking, tourism and leisure.

Secondly, if the land is sold to the highest bidder, this is likely to be for residential development. I strongly object to the potential development of more flats in central Tonbridge, especially on river frontage which should be protected for the existing local population to enjoy. Parking is already an issue in that area and is likely to become even worse with the Tonbridge Medical Group development which is adjacent to River Lawn. Public, open space is an asset which should be protected.

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 21:28
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Keep River Lawn Green

Dear Ms. Iggulden,

I would like to register my objection to the council deciding to sell off the area around River Lawn (and the Teen and Twenties Club) without consultation.

I would like the council to carry out a public consultation before proceeding as I believe there is popular opposition to the plans.

Your Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 16:53
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River lawn

Let me know if you got this OK

Katie Iggulden
Estates Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Katie

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Sony Xperia™ smartphone

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 16:09
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn

Katie,

We wish to object about the proposed sell off of River Lawn and the old Citizens Advice Bureau building in River Walk for development. There has been no consultation about this. and as both sites are in the conservation area of Tonbridge, any changes should respect the existing character and preserve it. There are few green areas left in Tonbridge now. We live at the top of Quarry Hill Road and look down onto Tonbridge. The amount of green we can see now is very different from when we moved here 20 plus years ago - it has just kept disappearing.

We accept we need to build more housing but to ride rough shod across the Tonbridge Conservation area is against the whole reason the conservation area was first established.

We believe there should be public consultation about these 2 sites and would like my objections put on record

Regards

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 14:01
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: **OBJECTION TO SALE**

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this email to confirm I object to the sale of the land at River Lawn and the old CAB building in Tonbridge.

Development development everywhere you look. Tonbridge is such a beautiful town. Please keep some of Tonbridge natural and for our future children.

River lawn is part of history, and history serves its purpose. So let us keep that purpose and keep history and nature going together.

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 11:37
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn and River Walk

Dear Katie

I understand that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk, very close to my home on Avebury Avenue. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because the River Lawn is somewhere that can be enjoyed by the local community and visitors aswell as it being a really nice walk through the town with views of the river and the bigger park beyond.

Any sale of this area, particularly if it results in any building works would be detrimental to the town and the area. I would like to see TMBC enhancing the area so that full use of it can be encouraged. There is a lot that could be done here.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 April 2017 10:59
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: objection to the building on the river lawn site

Dear Katie Iggulden

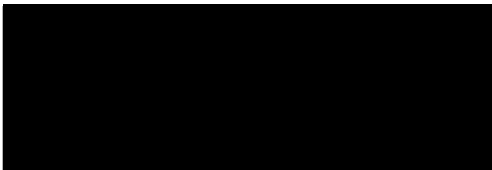
Please note my objection to the disposal of the area of land at our river lawn road site. I use this site regularly as my son attends a nearby scout group.

Its a valuable piece of land for the local population to use. It also completes the green space and cuts across public walk ways to the weir and river side walk.

No one is denying the importance of medical facilities for the town, but such facilities hardly need to be on a green space with a river view!

If the council thought about it, the old CAB site could be used as the medical centre rather than selling this site to housing developers.

Currently, its a mis-construed plan.



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Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 April 2017 10:32
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Disposal of assets in Tonbridge

Dear Katie

I am writing to you to voice my concern about TMBC's planned disposal of the land at River Lawn and River Walk in Tonbridge.

I support the building of a new medical centre on the site of the current Teen and Twenty building, but strongly oppose the building of flats or any other structure on the lovely green space that is River Lawn. I live a few minutes walk from River Lawn in the Barden area of Tonbridge, and regularly visit River Lawn with my two young daughters. It is vital that the green spaces of Tonbridge are protected.

We have also learned recently that the council plans to sell off the former CAB building on River Walk.

It seems as though TMBC are moving ahead with these plans without a public consultation on the matter, which is wrong. There is much affection for both River Lawn and River Walk in Tonbridge from its residents and council tax-payers. It is vital that these matters are subject to a public consultation and the interests and opinions of Tonbridge residents are heard.

The disposal of the River Lawn and River Walk assets is being undertaken by TMBC without the consent of the people of Tonbridge and that is wrong.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 09:01
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Tonbridge

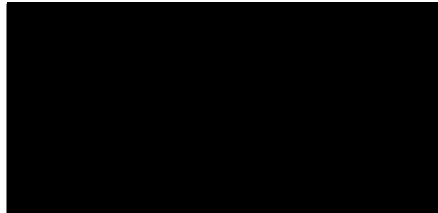
Dear Madam

I would like to add to the growing number of people objecting about the future of River Lawn and the old CAB building.

Please at least consult the people that live in Tonbridge before making more decisions about our town.

I took a walk around the area yesterday, I cannot believe you are thinking of building on this spot of greenery by the river.

the trees look beautiful at this time of year.
Thankyou



Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 April 2017 09:57
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Re-development

Dear Ms Iggulden,

I was dismayed to hear of the proposed plan to sell off the River Lawn and River walk land to a developer without proper public consultation. I live on the Barden Estate and walk through the River Lawn area most days with my children. Green spaces are one of the reasons why we moved to Tonbridge from London five and a half years ago. It has been disappointing therefore to see the apparent disregard for green space in favour of quick sales for profit. I understand the need for more housing. However, I do not feel that these locations are suitable for a few reasons:

- 1. This area falls within the Tonbridge Conservation area. Building high rise flats, which I imagine is the plan given the development we are already having to endure between Barden Road and Avebury Avenue, will certainly not "respect the existing character and preserve or enhance the character and the appearance" of this area. The new build properties that have sprung up in Tonbridge in the past few years since I moved here are unimaginative, imposing new-build flats that do not gel in any way with the character of this market town.
- 2. The land around this area is already subject to many pressures. One of those is related to flooding. My home was flooded in 2013 which was a distressing time for my family and for all of those affected in the Barden area. Building more large properties on this land seems ill-advised, should we be subject to the same weather conditions as we experienced that Christmas Eve.

The second pressure is on parking. As resident of D1, with 2 small children, parking has become incredibly stressful. With the introduction of the flats being built on barden road this will get even worse. building a new medical centre is a great idea in theory but what about parking provision? The car park of the Teen and Twenty is already always full and that is with the building out of use.

The third pressure is on services such as schools and medical centres. Having just been through the school selection process I am aware of the pressure on numbers of school places we experience in Tonbridge. I also have issues getting appointments at my GP surgery which is the one being proposed to be housed in the new medical centre. High rise flats mean a large influx of people into the area at once without increased provision of services for them.

The River Lawn area is not well looked after and with a little care and some better lighting could be an asset to the town and community rather than an area left neglected so that it can be easily sold off to developers without any apparent thought or care for residents' views. I, along with other members of my community, are calling for the council to reconsider their plans and to have a proper public consultation and discussion about this issue.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Best wishes,

[Redacted Signature]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 April 2017 16:44
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: TMBC disposal of Land at River Lawn, Tonbridge

Dear Ms Iggulden,

I am a Tonbridge resident and wish to register my objection to the disposal by TMBC of public green space land at River Lawn, Tonbridge.

Furthermore, might I suggest that in future matters affecting Tonbridge Town of such importance are advertised in the Tonbridge editions of the Courier and Times of Tonbridge and not just Kent Messenger. The Courier and the Times appear to be more widely available and read in the town than the KM. Advertising in the latter indicates to me that TMBC is trying to 'fly under the radar' rather than being open and accountable to the people of this town, whom it is there to serve.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 April 2017 11:25
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Tonbridge River Green

Dear Katie,

I wish to state in the strongest possible terms my objection to the council selling off the River Green and old CAB building in Tonbridge. In my view this is for short-term gain and does not benefit Tonbridge residence in any way.

My objections are as follows:

No green spaces are ever returned. That's it buildings there forever.

It will further restrict views of Tonbridge's fantastic natural asset, the river.

Planning in this town seems to be done on the whim of a few individuals without due consideration or strategic planning. E.g. parking bays on Tonbridge high street. Last year it was the cinema development etc. Seriously why the mad rush to muck up this town. I expect the planning committee that approved the 'Lidle' building thought it was a good idea at the time. The presumptuous nature by which they attempt to secretly sell off public assets is a disgrace.

Large developments to the town are done with little public consultation. For example the flats by Waitrose have engulfed the views across Tonbridge.

Public land should never be sold off unless it is for the long-term benefit of the community. No case what so ever has been put forward.

I would therefore request that a full public and well-promoted consultation is started.

Sincerely

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 22:26
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River lawn land sale

Dear Katie, I object to the sale of land at river lawn.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 18:53
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Selling The River Lawn area

Hello Katie,

I'm writing to object to the sell of the River Lawn Green area to a developer who will then build luxury flats.

Firstly, its an area that can and does flood.
Secondly, the trees that are there are over forty years old and provide an excellent habitat for the wildlife.
We already have flats being built along Avebury ave and quite simply the underlying infrastructure cannot cope with it all.

I have lived in Tonbridge since 1980 and it just seems like every bit of land must be built on?! Its simply madness and the people involved with these decisions don't have to live with the consequences.

Finally, I find it quite amazing that plans have already been drawn up with no consultation of the residents.

I strongly recommend that this plan should be abandoned and I am aware that there are a number of other residents who have written in to object to this.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 16:33
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Sale of River lawn /old citizens advise bureau

Dear Katie, as a resident of Tonbridge , I object to the proposed plans of TMBC to sell off both these sites which no doubt once again will be for more development , we don't want a concrete jungle in our town to spoil the green spaces with lots of wonderful horse chestnuts as we have in River lawn , this needs to be preserve and enjoyed by the people of Tonbridge .

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Katie Iggulden

60

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2017 06:35
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Road Area

Katie Iggulden
Estate Services Manager
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Ms Iggulden

It has come to my attention that a proposal has been made to sell off land at River Lawn Road with a view to development of that land.

I object to this firstly on the grounds that I only heard of it via word of mouth. I then found the notice on the council website. This hardly encourages public awareness and involvement in the decision process.

Secondly, and more importantly, I believe any development to this area fundamentally alters the character of the town centre. The River Lawn would far better serve the population of the town by being available as a refuge from the traffic and shoppers in the high streets. It has not remained in the most cared for state but the answer is not to lose it.

I believe I am not alone in not wanting to lose this area to development. Doing so would harm the town centre and make it less attractive to visitors.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2017 13:28
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Tonbridge matters

I am writing to you to register my objection to the sale of the land at River Lawn and the old CAB building. These are now precious places which should be used for the benefit of the town's people and not the benefit of property developers. We the people of Tonbridge matter and we should be consulted first.

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 15:46
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: The sale of the land at River Lawn Tonbridge

Hello Katie, I would like to object very strongly to the sale of the land at River Lawn Tonbridge, I lived in Tonbridge for 44 years only recently moving to Leigh, and I feel the selling of this land is a dangerous precursor to selling and building on more of Tonbridge park. That land is for the council to care for not to sell. If new buildings are needed in Tonbridge there are plenty of brownfield sites. Additionally you should be looking to build more social housing for local people which is greatly needed and not more private housing. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 15:16
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Objections to the sale of River Lawn

Dear Ms Iggulden,

I would like to register my concern at the plans to sell off River Lawn in Tonbridge, as part of a plan alongside selling the Teen and Twenty club and the old CAB building.

I am particularly worried at the loss of green space in that area. Towns are not just made of the buildings in them, but the spaces between these, and it's imperative to keep green space a part of our daily lives. There has been a lot of development in Tonbridge over the last few years, much of it ugly, tall and cramped. The amount of flats being built saddens and worries me, as it encourages our town to become even more of a dormitory town. Flats also, by their nature, do not have gardens, further alienating their inhabitants from the changing seasons, the land we live on and nature. People need gardens, people need green space to look on to, walk past and enjoy. River lawn is part of our towns landscape and I oppose strongly any plans to build upon it. Once gone, green space will never be replaced.

Please pass my views on to those who may need to hear it.

Thank you,
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

64

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 14:33
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Sale of River Lawn and the old CAB in Tonbridge

Dear Katie,

Like many others I am writing to you to show my objection to both the way and the idea that the River Lawn and old CAB building in Tonbridge are being disposed off. Having lived in and around Tonbridge all my life, I believe that Tonbridge is being over developed for housing, and the amenities in the town are being reduced. If the proposal to redevelop the site of the Teen and Twenty to house a medical centre goes ahead, and then a bunch of expensive flats gets put up along the river this will result in a massive over development of the area, parking and easy access to an outdoors space for people living and working in the area will be degraded. I also believe that Tonbridge is in serious need of a museum, especially with the loss of the reference section in the library, the old CAB would be a great place for this, especially if it could be combined with other functions like Age Concern, and rooms for clubs to use (especially since we are losing the Tee and Twenty).

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 21 April 2017 14:25
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Land at River Lawn Road Tonbridge

Dear Ms Iggulden

Ref

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

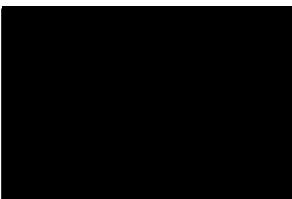
NOTICE UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123(2A)

AREA OF LAND AT RIVER LAWN ROAD TONBRIDGE

I object to the sale of this land for the following reasons:

1. I consider that Tonbridge residents have not been consulted in any meaningful way on this sale of an important town centre public open space. The Kent Messenger in which the advertisement of sale was placed has limited, if any, circulation in Tonbridge. The advertisement did not appear on the Council's website anywhere the public might reasonably be expected to find it -- even if they knew it existed in the first place. I consider this is contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of the relevant act.
2. River Lawn is an attractive area of open space in the town centre with mature and attractive trees. As such it is a rarity now that the town has been so extensively built over in recent years with poorly planned developments contributing little if anything to public amenity, particularly along the river banks.
3. The attractive riverside setting makes it inevitable that the site will particularly attract developers of so called "luxury flats". We already have far too many of these in Tonbridge, clearly aimed at attracting London overspill and well beyond the reach of local residents with housing needs.
4. If the land has to be sold then the Council must not simply hand it over to the highest bidder with free-rein to erect whatever best suits its bottom line, as seems to be the current intention. It must first ensure that development is achieved sensitively according to a blueprint that puts a priority on an attractive townscape and has been subject to public scrutiny through the usual planning process. Sale of the land with planning permission would probably achieve a better price anyway.

Best regards



Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 14:22
To: Katie Iggulden
Cc: Russell Lancaster; Owen Baldock
Subject: Keep River Lawn Green - Tonbridge

Dear Katie,

Having seen recent reports of plans to sell off and develop the Tonbridge green space known as River Lawn and also the site which was previously the site of the Citizens Advice Bureau, I'm writing to you to raise my concerns and objections to these proposals.

As a resident of Tonbridge for 24 years, I am concerned that this communal area at River Lawn will be given over a housing, which I feel is unnecessary when you consider the extent of the new developments already completed and still on-going in our town. Such communal areas are part of the reason that Tonbridge attracts new residents and why the existing ones stay. It should be maximised for that purpose rather than disposed of for fundraising.

While I sympathise with local councils with their budget constraints, I can't accept that this short term fix of selling off assets is in the interests of the town as a whole, or the council itself. What will you do when you have run out of assets to sell?

I also fear that losing this green space will also add to the local flood risk, especially with its close proximity to the river.

With regard to the old CAB building, again I would rather see this refurbished and used for the benefit the town's residents, instead of being replaced with characterless purpose built accommodation.

Lastly, I most concerned that these plans appear to have been instigated with little or no discussion with the town's residents, and it seems as if they have almost been hidden from our view deliberately. It saddens me that I regularly see petitions in circulation trying to preserve the identity and history of Tonbridge and it worries me that the council would adopt procedures that would either unwittingly or knowingly prevent the general public from being a part of this decision-making. I would be grateful to know your plans for consulting with Tonbridge residents on the two sites in question.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 11:22
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn

Dear Ms Iggulden,

I would like to make it known that I object to the sale of River Lawn and the plan to build 'luxury riverside apartments'.

Tonbridge is struggling to house it's residents and more affordable/social properties are needed rather than the luxury ones that are popping up in hideous builings around town.

River Lawn has been a quiet haven for many years and will be a great loss to the people of Tonbridge. I object whole heartedly to its sale and any subsequent plans.

I would like to add that I do support the plan to create a new doctor's surgery on the site of the Teen and Twenty club. It truly is a perfect location but concerns over flooding still remain.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 21 April 2017 11:19
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River lawn development objection

Dear Katie

I'd like to register my dismay at the development of River Lawn and the complete lack of public consultation about the plans to build on this important public space.

It is an important social space for teenagers and is used a lot by people in their lunch hours (even more when it was a better maintained lawn and could be used for picnics before the weir building work took place without reurfing afterwards). Some grass has finally grown back and it now even has a tea room. This is not an appropriate place to develop and Tonbridge should be increasing public access to the river front and preserving precious public space rather than building on it. I urge the council to consult the rate payers properly and recondsider.

I'm also curious to know whether the council is going to put any pressure on the developers of the Crabapple/Redbud Road development to construct the promised foot bridge across the Medway mill stream? Wasn't this an essential part of the planning permission given?

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 11:15
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Green - objection to sale

Dear Katie,

I am writing to object to the council selling River Lawn Green in Tonbridge.

The town is becoming swamped with new builds which are crammed into areas which the council deem dispensable, but the residents do not.

Long-standing homes and businesses are dwarfed by blocks which tower above us, robbing us of space and shadowing everything from light.

You say that hundreds of people are waiting to move into Tonbridge, but it is not their right to do so and we are not obliged to accommodate them.

Where are the doctors, schools and parking places to service the surge of new occupants?

If this short-sighted, money-grabbing practice continues, I suspect that people will be wanting to *leave* Tonbridge in their hundreds. Mercenary councillors will have ruined the place for everyone.

Please preserve the green areas we have left.

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 09:55
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Walk Land and Buildings.

Hi Katie,

I, along with everyone I have spoken to, are really worried that the lovely old CAB building is going to be demolished to make way for an apartment block!

Is this true?

Also that the River Lawn land is to be sold to developers!

Is this true?

The heart of Tonbridge is this area and the old original town North of the river. We have lost SO many buildings that gave visual history to the town, that we really cannot lose anymore, even if it is to help the council balance the books.

I know money has to be found after the government cuts, but losing the town's identity must not be used as the 'easy option'.

The River Walk area was created specifically for the people of Tonbridge, for their recreational enjoyment and to afford a pleasant walk to link the Barden area to the upper High Street and Castle.

The view from New Wharf Road across to the Castle is delightful with the lovely old house sat on the corner, an apartment block would degrade this view immensely.

I expect, as usual, nothing the people of Tonbridge say will have any effect on the decisions made about the town by the planners, who are supposed to represent our wishes.

These wishes are to prevent the erection of buildings detrimental to the aesthetic look of the town, and most importantly to save old buildings, that for years and in some cases 100's of years, have given visual pleasure to townspeople and visitors alike.

The apartment blocks in Wharf Road are ok, they are in keeping with this old industrial area, but those in The Botany, opposite Waitrose are horrendous, they should at least have been built to match the others.

Please don't let the picturesque old CAB building go the way of the lovely Georgian house at 180 High Street, left to moulder away for five years while the developer 'sorts out the rear access'. I understand the first planning application was refused, sadly the second one was approved, the third application, for a further three years, should never have been approved given the huge public opposition presented, if that wasn't a 'change of circumstances' to be considered it is obvious that the planning committee have no roots in the town, and no understanding of the wishes of those of us who do.

I have no objection to building more accommodation for the townspeople away from the tourist areas, but to allow developers to take over the heart of the town is wrong, the River Walk/Lawn area is the property of the council, who we elect to represent us, so it is our land and buildings

too. It is there for our benefit, we pay our rates so the council can look after our needs, not dispose of our land and buildings without consulting us.

There must be a public meeting this time, not to butt heads, but hopefully to hear why the council are considering this move, and what benefits the town and its people will receive by these sales.

I was born in Woodfield Road, south Tonbridge in 1946; it is my town, and I would like the visual history of the town to be there for my grandchildren to grow up with, and for them to be able to enjoy these lovely areas with their children, and hopefully their grandchildren as many have before.

For this to happen it is up to the council to make sure this legacy, from a previous council nearly 100 years ago, remains as it is, for the pleasure of the people of Tonbridge and its visitors.

There are other ways to make up the financial deficit, once the land and buildings are gone that's it, it's up to you; you can say NO and be a part of keeping Tonbridge a lovely place to live, or be part of its continuing demise into an outer London suburb, with a Castle gate house that can't be seen unless you stand in front of it because it's surrounded by blocks of flats.

I strongly object to the sale of the River Lawn area and the old CAB building, and request a public meeting to allow the townspeople to voice their views.

Regards.

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2017 08:50
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn

Dear Katie,

I would like to add my name to the campaign to stop TMBC selling off the public space at River Lawn for luxury housing. This is a much-used space by the river and, with more housing, will mean the loss of a public amenity. Tonbridge is a lovely town, we have lived here for over 40 years and have witnessed immense change recently but this is one change we do not like. When is the in- filling development going to stop? Already, roads, trains, schools and doctors are overloaded.

This proposed development should have had a public consultation. This is a public space that belongs to us, the people of Tonbridge.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 23:29
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Sale of land at River Lawn

The Lib Dems believe the council should have meaningful consultations with the residents of Tonbridge and listen to, and act upon, what they want. It is unacceptable for sensitive decisions such as selling land at River Lawn to be made behind closed doors. The council should provide full information so residents know exactly what is proposed and why and can then make an informed opinion. If housing were agreed to be built (with residents support) it should be affordable to local people and meet the housing needs of the Borough. It should also count towards the quota expected by government and so help to protect the Green Belt. But no such development should occur if it is against the wishes of the majority of residents.

[REDACTED]

~~73~~ 73

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 23:06
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: river lawn- Tonbridge

Dear Katie

I wish to raise my objection to the proposed sale of River Lawn.

This is an attractive patch of green in a town which has already had more construction projects than it can cope with. I particularly object to the idea that it could be sold without proper public consultation - if this is land owned by the council, then the public has a right to discuss what it might best be used for.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 22:59
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn land disposal

I wish to add my objection to the disposal by TMBC of land at River Lawn, Tonbridge.

People living in Tonbridge have been given little opportunity to voice their objections, as I am lead to believe that the notice advertising the intention to sell the land was placed in a newspaper that has a tiny circulation in this part of the borough.

The open space River Lawn provides is a pleasant break from the hustle and bustle of the High Street and provides a natural gateway between the South end of the High Street and Sports Ground.

In my opinion the town already has enough flats/apartments and building more will only add to congestion and place even more of a burden on the already overstretched infrastructure in the town.



Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 22:45
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Green

I would like to register my opposition to any building work taking place on the River Lawn area. This area should retain its quiet and peaceful ambience in fact this should be enhanced by improving the grassy areas and providing flowered areas and improved seating. There is no other area like this in Tonbridge and it must be preserved and nurtured not concreted over like so many others around the town.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 April 2017 22:13
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Development

Dear Ms Iggulden,

I am writing to object to the River Lawn development proposed for Tonbridge.

As a father with young children River Lawn and the Teen and Twenties Club has played, and will continue to play, a large part in my life.

While I agree with the principle of the redevelopment of the Teen and Twenties Club, to create modern local facilities and the creation of a brand new state of the art medical centre for the town there are a number of issues I have with the proposals, and I would ask you to represent these views to the Planning Committee.

Why are two medical centres closing so a new one can be created? Surely the huge amount of development that has taken place in the centre of town and is taking place on Tudeley Lane means that more medical facilities (doctor's, dentists etc) need to be created and built in order to ensure that all residents of the town get access to medical care. Also in closing the 2 other centres more people will have to travel to go to the doctor, and currently there isn't enough parking planned for a medical centre of that size. The car park at Trenchwood Medical Centre demonstrates that most days.

Why is the council selling the land for development by a private company to then rent out, rather than build the medical centre itself? Surely this would then allow for other services to be included like a children's centre or community use space, so community or interest groups had somewhere to meet. The lack of interconnected services and delivery will be detrimental.

In terms of the River Lawn development itself, I am absolutely against this. River Lawn itself is not a big enough area to develop in a serious fashion that is sympathetic and fits in with the existing community. The lack of transparency around the whole development, including the publishing of the official notice in a paper that isn't even available in the town is disgusting and underhand. The lack of forethought about how the council itself may develop existing plots of land that might be developed in a way that both sensitively addresses local need and could provide income for the Borough Council is worrying.

I am also concerned by the lack of any service provision being included in the development. Not only are you proposing to build over a beautiful site, and put up expensive flats for non residents, the Council has also not thought about the knock on effect of the influx of new residents and the demand on services. The town centre developments and Tudeley Lane developments are lasting proof of the need to incorporate and use Section 106 agreements to ensure that services for these new developments are included in any planning and building development. Medical centres, school spaces and community spaces must be included in order to ensure that there is enough provision for all potential users, even if it means the developers having to build these as part of the development contract. This has been done before in other areas.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 21:29
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Sale of River Lawn, Tonbridge

Dear Ms Iggulden

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed sale of River Lawn. This is a conservation area and the destruction of beautiful mature trees to make way for flats can only be detrimental to its character and appearance, and certainly won't enhance it (in line with the criteria listed on your website). Green spaces like this should be protected. The risk of flooding at river lawn is high, and to add to the pressure on parking and traffic congestion in the Barden area is unreasonable. It is an insult to the people of Tonbridge that there has been no attempt at public consultation regarding this matter. I hope TMBC will realise the extent of concern from residents and act accordingly.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 April 2017 21:26
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Objection to the sale of River Lawn, Tonbridge

Dear Ms Iggulden

I would like to object to the proposed sale and development of the River Lawn area of Tonbridge. This is a unique green area within the town and has great potential as a community space. I believe that the sale would inevitably lead to development of the site which would be inappropriate and unsustainable for the following reasons:

1. The area is designated as a conservation area. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's own website states that any development in such an area must 'preserve or enhance the character of the area'. It is difficult to understand how building on a green open space can enhance or preserve its character. Any plan to build on this space therefore surely directly contradicts the council's own policy.
2. The area is close to the river and on a flood plain and there is considerable evidence that this increases the risk of flooding both in the immediate and surrounding areas. Indeed the river lawn was underwater during the recent flooding of 2014/5. Although the primary cause of the flooding was due to the high river level caused by the operation of the Leigh barrier, the problem was exacerbated by the drainage in the area being overwhelmed. The loss of natural drainage provided by the lawn, and through further development in the area will place an unsustainable burden on the drainage system. It will also have to cope with the additional demands of the Enterprise House development currently being built in Avebury Avenue.
3. Any proposed development will also increase pressure on traffic and parking in the area as access to the site from the High Street is only possible via Avebury Avenue. Since the conversion of Avebury Avenue to one way, and the recent work in the High Street, access and egress to the Barden area has become more and more difficult for residents. Parking is also becoming increasingly problematic especially in the D1 area near the station. With the expected increase in traffic connected with the Enterprise House development and the proposed medical centre in the former Teen and Twenty club premises, any further development in this area will be unsustainable.

I urge the council to reconsider the decision to offer this land for sale and instead work with local residents to make this unique part of Tonbridge an asset to the community. Whilst I accept that development and increased housing provision is necessary I feel strongly this is not the appropriate area for it.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 21:19
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn

Dear Katie

I am writing to object to the selling of River Lawn and River Walk land by TMBC without first holding a public consultation.

I support a new medical centre to replace the old Teen and Twenty building, but do not support the building of new flats or commercial properties on River Lawn - an area prone to flooding, and which flooded as recently as Christmas 2013.

River Lawn is well-used by residents and visitors to the town, and with a small amount of care and attention could prove to be a vital asset to Tonbridge. To attempt to dispose of it without a public consultation is wrong, and in effect is ignoring the opinions and wishes of the residents of Tonbridge.

I urge the council to hold a full public consultation to find out the views of the residents of Tonbridge on this matter, as I believe TMBC may have misjudged the amount of local affection for both areas, and the impact an ill-conceived development may have on the town.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 20:59
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Re: River Lawn Tonbridge

Dear Ms Iggulden

I am writing to you to state my objection to the proposed building on the River Lawn site in Tonbridge.

Any such building will impact the Scout Hut (Weir View Hut) in many ways. Not only will it impede the green space surrounding the hut but also reduce the amount of parking spaces used by parents. It will also lead to congestion as there will not be enough parking for a large medical centre with a large practice population and staff. I appreciate the administration staff may be asked to find alternative parking but G.Ps and District Nurses will need to park within the surgery vicinity.

The congestion and also the use of diggers , heavy plant equipment etc during any building period will put the children using Weir View Scout Hut for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and also Sevington Nursery at increased risk. Surely the building work will cause noise pollution which will disrupt their activities.

The children enjoy the outside space, the nursery children play within the gated area of the Scout Hut and the Cubs and Scouts learn water skills and boating. The dust caused by the building work may mean none of this is possible for the duration of the building work.

I would urge the council to seek a more appropriate piece of land as River Lawn is not fit for purpose.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 19:18
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Keep River Lawn Green

Dear Katie Iggulden,

River Lawn is currently not the most attractive site but with imagination, and a bit of tender loving care this space is far more valuable for the prosperity and happiness of our town than it is to build on it.

Many dull and unsightly buildings have been allowed planning in Tonbridge for many decades and the effects are irreversible. I am not against modern buildings but I hate mediocre and the shortsightedness of planning that does not look to the future. Community spirit is so important. This could be a great and inspiring place for the young, the old and the ones yet to come to Tonbridge. Filling every little space there is with more of the same, in my mind, is not the way to achieve this.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

MA 82

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 19:09
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Keep River Lawn Green

I am writing to say that I strongly object to the proposed development of the River Lawn Area, and demolition of the old CAB building.

Short term profit does not justify long term loss of amenities and open spaces.

Tonbridge is a small market town, with a very limited road system, far too many expensive characterless flats already, and the River Lawn area is on the flood plain. The High Street, despite all the recent "improvements", is clogged with traffic, adding to the pollution levels. How can we possibly cope with any more residents right in the centre of town? Has anyone checked the pollution levels recently? I remember reading in the local paper about twenty years ago that even then they were exceeding safety levels at the lower end of the High Street. What are the current levels??

It is essential to keep some green spaces and trees in the town, they help to mitigate pollution, and to lose these is shortsighted to say the least. Tonbridge is becoming a more popular place to live, and to destroy its character with hideous blocks of flats will make it more like Hong Kong than an English market town.

The attractive ex CAB building, in its prime position, has many potential functions within the community, and should be retained as an asset, helping to draw visitors in and being a focal point.

[REDACTED]

83

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 17:48
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn sell off

Dear Miss Iggulden,

I strongly object to the sell off of the grassed area at River Lawn without a full public consultation, and an invitation for local people to submit proposals for the area.

The patch of grass has been neglected and allowed to become scruffy, and the trees not looked after or pruned to allow more light onto the grass. It is supposed to be an alcohol free area yet it's a daily haunt for drinkers and not patrolled. In other words it's been allowed to get into this unwelcoming state and therefore avoided by townspeople and visitors.

Rather than selling the land off it could be renovated and become a very pleasant part of the waterside scene in the town, for local workers to spend their lunch break, for events in the spring and summer that could actually bring revenue into the town, such as the French market that Sevenoaks and Bromley have, craft fairs for small local producers etc in other words it could become the amenity it's supposed to be as a publicly owned piece of land.

It should also be borne in mind that the area is prone to flooding, and has flooded a few times in recent years. The town centre will not benefit from yet more residential property, that no doubt will have car parking as part of the development, adding to the traffic in the town, never mind the disruption while building takes place, and the risk to the riverside ecology. Tonbridge needs truly affordable family housing and somewhere for cultural events, both are sorely lacking, selling the Riverside Lawn will achieve neither.

Please reconsider the decision to sell the land for short term gain, and invite plans to make the area another place that Tonbridge can be proud of and a location for events to benefit local residents and bring visitors.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

84

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 17:13
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Keep River Lawn Green.

Dear Katie, my husband & I strongly object to more buildings on our green space, a space I might add brings a lot of pleasure to a lot of people walking beside the river & weir & sitting down on the benches watching the wildlife the trees & grassy area make it all a pleasurable place to be. So please don't take any more green space away as there is not many places like this left.

Sent from my iPad. [REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 16:56
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: River Lawn Tonbridge

Dear Ms Iggulden

I wish to protest in the strongest terms against TMBC's proposal to build on River Lawn in Tonbridge. Residents have not been consulted in any transparent way on this proposal. The land belongs to ratepayers, they should be consulted and their opinions listened to.

This area forms part of a wonderful open space, enabling an attractive green approach to the river and the park. These are important aspects of the town to its residents and make Tonbridge the attractive town that it is. For many years the Council has assured residents that it would work towards the enhancement of the river area, in the town. Building on this site would detract, **not add** to the enhancement of this important feature.

There has been a great deal of development (mainly flats) in and around the town centre in recent years.

It should not be forgotten that Tonbridge is a flood plain. Additional development will only worsen the risk of flooding. I should also like to remind the Council that in the 2000 floods, the water filled the park, reaching the very top of the wall that separates the river bank from River Lawn. I witnessed this personally and was struck by how, if that wall had given way, it would have swept away everything in its path and flooded the town. Luckily the wall did not give way on that occasion, but surely this is not a risk you should ignore.

I urge TMBC to abandon this proposal.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

86

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 14:55
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: [Suspect Spam] River lawn

I am emailing to strongly object to the sale of the river lawn area And the potential development of luxury flats
These actions are turning our town into a concrete eyesore

[REDACTED]

87

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 14:19
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Objection to proposed sale of land at River Lawn & River Walk, Tonbridge

Dear Katie,

I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk in Tonbridge and I am very concerned that this is being done without first consulting the townspeople about what we need to be provided in the heart of our town.

In addition, the plans to build flats on River Lawn, a space that is currently for public use and enjoyment seems to me to be incredibly short sighted. This is an area with beautiful mature trees which offers a place to relax and escape the bustle of the high street. It should be kept for the benefit of all who live in and visit Tonbridge.

Also, being so close to the High Street, parking for new residents and visitors to the proposed doctors surgery will be an enormous problem. Will sick and infirm patients be expected to park at Sainsbury's or Bradford Street and walk to the surgery? Surely not.

Furthermore, I would like to remind the council that both River Lawn and River Walk are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area which by their own definition is a 'combination of buildings, spaces and landscapes that together create areas of strong and unique character that is worth protecting'.

I do not believe the current proposed plans go any way to protect the 'strong & unique character' of either River Lawn or River Walk.

In summary, I cannot accept that building flats on either of these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 14:10
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Objection

Dear Katie

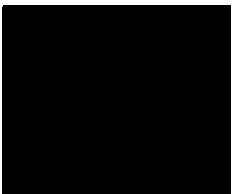
I have recently heard that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council plan to sell off the land they own at River Lawn and at River Walk. I am very concerned that this is being done without the consent of townspeople and that there has been no attempt at public consultation.

I am against the sale because ...

I believe that this area would benefit from improvement as it has been neglected for some time and the introduction of picnic tables and lighting would transform it into a valuable asset for people to enjoy their lunch while visiting our town centre.

This area and the old CAB site are within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and any development is supposed to 'enhance that character and the appearance of the Conservation Area'.

I cannot accept that building flats on these sites will be an improvement and selling them with this intention is against my wishes



Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 13:58
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Sale of council land

Dear Miss/Mrs Iggulden,

I am writing to register my objections to the council's plans to sell off river lawn and the ex CAB building in Tonbridge, for development without at least holding a proper public consultation with the people of Tonbridge. The council should respect that the town's residents should have a say in what happens to public recreational land.

I strongly believe that a town centre green space such as this should be preserved for future generations and is not a suitable place to advocate development into yet more flats, when the town has and is currently still gaining hundreds of flats through recent and ongoing developments and conversions, particularly as the town does not have the infrastructure to cope with the increase in population this causes.

Please make my objections known to the council members who are elected to represent the people of Tonbridge.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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90

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 19:14
To: Katie Iggulden
Cc: Tom Tugendhat; Vivian Branson; Owen Baldock; Pam Bates; Georgina Thomas; Nicolas Heslop
Subject: River Lawn and old CAB building

I would like to register the strongest objection to the selling off of the above named sites, I would like evidence of the consultation process. TMBC seem to believe they have carte blanche to destroy our beautiful town without discussion or consultation with the residents (see the Cannon Lawn flower bed fiasco). Also I would like confirmation that the announcement was placed not in our local paper the Courier but in the Kent Messenger which is not local to the town.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 16:51
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Fwd: Proposed sale and development of river lawn tonbridge

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 20 April 2017 at 16:48:41 BST
To: iggulden@tmbc.gov.uk
Subject: Proposed sale and development of river lawn tonbridge

I have become aware of this proposed sale and development while away on leave. As a lifelong resident of tonbridge I object to the disposal of instrinsic public amenity space for yet another central tonbridge housing development. The town centre is being segmented by housing and failing to serve the wider community. This is a prime location and it's sale and housing development will bar the public accessing a central public area near the castle an historic buiding. Housing is not sympathetic or in keeping with the proposed location.

For this proposal not to have been more widely publicised is shameful at best and underhand at worst - wider consultation with residents is required.

Sent from my iPhone

Katie Iggulden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2017 13:13
To: Katie Iggulden
Subject: Keeping River Lawn Green

Dear Ms Iggulden,

I would like to register my objection to the use of the River Lawn area of Tonbridge being used for further flats.

I have no objection to the building of a surgery on the site of the former Teen and Twenty Club, provided that sufficient parking is made available. However the rest of this small space provides an important gateway into the park from the town and it is areas like this which make Tonbridge so special.

The lack of consultation is an even more worrying development.

I appreciate that in order to thrive this town needs to grow, and that this will involve the building of new homes. I was one of the few people who could not see a problem with the huge Waterside Reach development, welcoming it as chance to draw new people into our town. However, building flats on such a small but an important part of the town seems unnecessary.

Regards,

[REDACTED]