SUPPORTING STATEMENT – LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

PROPOSED CEMETERY EXTENSION.

The Parish Council need to provide burial grounds for future use.

The Parish Council resolved to apply for planning permission after taking into account the views of residents who feel that the cemetery should remain in the town for easy access to all and they felt that the proposed Seagate Road site would be too remote.

The proposed extension is easily accessible both on foot and by car and is on the main bus route so is easy for families to visit in particular the elderly and disabled members of our community.

Many have also expressed a wish to be buried in the same cemetery as their families, with some families having 3 or 4 generations interred there.

Residents have expressed that the Seagate Road site is more remote, it is too far out of town for the elderly and disabled residents to access on foot, it is not on the main bus route and can only reasonably be accessed by car.

The town has two park areas and in comparison to the size of the town the parks provision is much larger than in the other nearby towns and the council feel that utilising what is a small part of the parks to provide a burial ground easily accessible to all is acceptable.

In addition the boundary of the proposed extension is further away from the football pitch than other obstacles on the other three sides of the pitch. (Please refer to the enclosed photographs).

In addition the council would erect sports net behind the goals to avoid balls being kicked into the cemetery.

The boundary would be of a post and net construction with hedgerow planted along the boundary.

The proposed extension would not affect nearby TPOs and the three TPOs within the proposed extension boundary would be encompassed within the Remembrance/Reflection area of the extension.

The town has a local cricket club, a leisure centre , Astro turf sports ground, outdoor bowls club, gymnastics club,indoor bowls club and hockey club independent of the parks which amounts to excellent sports and leisure facilities for a small Market Town and the loss of such a small area of leisure ground would not affect this provision in anyway.

The football club has a pavilion and members club within the park grounds and the club rent the football pitch during the football season. They also have a junior/second pitch available within the park and again the existing provisions for the football club would not be affected and there would be no loss to their amenity.

The park has two public car parks within the park and a cemetery drive, turning point and parking area within the existing cemetery. There is also water provision at the existing cemetery. The council feel that it is in these times of austerity sensible to utilise the existing infrastructure and extend the cemetery for a modest cost compared to having to provide new infrastructure and cemetery that could cost in excess of £450,000.00 for the Seagate Road site due to the planning condition which requires the ground level to be built up on that site and the need to provide roadways and utilities.

The council currently has approximately 3 years burial space left so they feel it is necessary to establish the new burial grounds as soon as possible it is ready for use.

The council has had a site visit with the Internal Drainage Board during the consultation for the previous application for the site and they had approved the site and confirmed that any burials would be the required 9 meters from a nearby drain cover.

In addition during the previous consultation the TPOs were considered by Mrs Diane Fairchild-Fenton and the council provided the required measurements for the trees and confirmed that the trees would not be affected.

The council feel that the objections from Sports England should be overridden because the use of the ground does not reduce any sports provision in the park but uses an area currently used for siting soil and tree branches etc., and the remainder is only occasionally by dog walkers who are more than adequately provided for within the park.

The council enclose photographs for information which depict the provision of park space and facilities both in the Cinder Ash Park and the Bull Lane Park and they feel it also proves the amount of park land being required for the extension is minimal compared to the large amount of park provision available.

The council requests that the application is seriously considered.