

*The Independent Voice of Local Business*.....

**SOUTHAMPTON & FAREHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY  
COMMENTS ON CREST PLANNING APPLICATION 08/00389/OUT  
CENTENARY QUAY MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT.**

Southampton and Fareham Chamber of Commerce would like to express its support for Planning Application 08/00389/OUT submitted by Crest Nicholson Regeneration Ltd for the former Vosper Thornycroft Site in Woolston, Southampton.

The evolving master plan for the regeneration of this site has been the subject of three presentations over the last four years to the Chamber of Commerce's Planning & Transport Committee, which is now submitting comments for the third time on the final version and the subject of this planning application. Some of the initial issues, which have been addressed in this latest version are:

- The number of jobs provided to be at least as many as from the former site, so as not to add to the erosion of employment land to residential use, but to capitalise on the local marine skills base and deep water quay facility.
- Compatibility of the height and style of the new architecture with existing buildings along Victoria Rd and an increase in the number of houses to be provided for families.
- Re-alignment of the three residential waterfront towers to give better visual permeability from Woolston towards the waterfront and better access through the site for pedestrians, cyclists and two bus routes.
- Public access to the waterfront as a leisure amenity made possible by the new riverside walk and café/restaurants now included in the development.
- The improvement of community facilities for Woolston residents with new library and health centre.

Other concerns expressed by the Committee covered the likely effect on the existing retail centre in Woolston, traffic congestion and sufficient parking provision for new and existing Woolston residents and employees,

The provision of a new supermarket is essential for the convenience shopping of all those living and working in the new development, but its size and offer should be sufficient to attract the trade at present leaking out of Woolston to other supermarkets, so increasing the footfall along the present High Street leading into the new development.

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The problem of traffic congestion in Woolston and the need to improve its link with Southampton have been addressed by the work done for the updated and revised Transport Assessment which gives assurances about the likely resulting influence of the new development and the measures needed to help with this. It is essential that these measures and the necessary funding are covered by any planning consent.

Parking provision for the various uses throughout the whole site needs to be carefully assessed and provided for, so that an influx of some 3,000 residents and some 1,000 jobs does not put an intolerable strain on the transport infrastructure to and from this waterside site. Realistic assumptions need to be made about numbers such as cycling commuters, work travel plan participants and how many new residents will also work at the site.

The enhancement of employment opportunities for local people by the provision of training to uplift and broaden the local skills base needs to be addressed once further detail is available for the marine quarter outlined in the planning statement.

The Chamber of Commerce has closely followed the redevelopment of the ex-Vosper site since 2004 and is satisfied that the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and its partners/agents have consulted extensively with all stakeholders, including Woolston residents, Southampton City Council, the marine sector, this Chamber of Commerce and the business community in general. They have sought to respond to consultation feedback by further evolving the master plan to achieve a truly mixed use scheme for the whole site, which aims to be economically viable, socially beneficial and environmentally sustainable.

The Chamber of Commerce is pleased that this redevelopment also responds to the maritime heritage of Southampton with a significant site for the marine industry and over 1,000 jobs, which will play a leading part in an emerging Solent marine hub of international reputation, thus serving Southampton City Council's 2026 vision for Southampton.

Captain J Chestnutt  
Director General

## **ABOUT US**

### ***Your regional Chamber working for you locally.....***

As the independent voice of local business, Southampton and Fareham Chamber of Commerce represents some 4,000 businesses in the South Hampshire region

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concerning the issues that affect their ability to grow and prosper. Their views are central to the Chamber's thinking on the many local, regional and national planning or government policy initiatives on which we are asked for formal comment as a business representative organisation. The volunteer Chamber members on the committees provide expertise and a wide knowledge of specialist topics. This is of great help in formulating the **Chamber Viewpoint**, which is published monthly in the centre pages of our magazine and on our web site.