

News Release

8 November 2012



Don't drop THE TROP

Secretary of State concedes Tropicana High Court Appeal to stop demolition

Campaigners trying to save the Tropicana are celebrating after finding out the Secretary of State has decided not to defend the Appeal they lodged in the High Court against his decision to grant Conservation Area Consent and allow the demolition of the building.

Campaigners lodged an appeal at the High Court alleging the Secretary of State had failed to consider the council's failure to maintain the building and the deliberate neglect of the site, as well as the damage caused by allowing the site to be used for unlawful waste dumping. In an email from the government lawyers it was confirmed that the Secretary of State will not defend the appeal.

Planning Consultant for The Trop (Wsm) Ltd, Amanda Sutherland said "The decision to withdraw from the court proceedings is conditional on our agreeing to a Consent Order to be submitted to the Court. The lawyers for the Secretary of State are essentially saying they recognise the decisions are flawed and will accept they should be quashed by the Court, as well as accepting that they should pay our legal fees incurred in bringing the Appeal.

However, they do not admit that the decision failed to consider the condition of the building but rather they believe that the decision required further reasoning. We have considered this offer from the Secretary of State seriously and have decided to accept the Consent Order."

The Secretary of State will now be required to reconsider and issue new decisions for the North Somerset council applications to demolish.

Derek Mead, spokesperson for The Trop (WSM) Ltd said "We are delighted that the Secretary of State has recognised he made the wrong decision when he decided the Tropicana should be demolished. We eagerly await his decisions and hope he refuses demolition. We have been keen to see the pool brought back to life and our recent application to the planning team demonstrates we have a well thought through scheme to refurbish and refit the building to create a high quality swimming and leisure facility. We said we would fight this all the way and we have - this is a triumph of common sense and a win for the local community"

Derek continued "We would urge all of our supporters to object to the current application the council have submitted to themselves to demolish the building. The South Area Committee will be meeting on the 22nd November and are there to represent your views - also you can write in support of our scheme. If anyone wants to know the details of our proposal, please go to our website www.tropicanawestonsupermare.co.uk to find out more and register your support for the campaign."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

When an appeal is made to the High Court against a decision by the Secretary of State, the Court can make several decisions. They can quash the decision(s) that have been appealed and require the Secretary of State to make the decision afresh OR the judges can agree with the Secretary of State and refuse to allow the appeal. The offer being made by the Secretary of State is effectively agreeing to the decisions being quashed and agreeing to make them afresh rather than waiting for a court hearing booked for 29 November 2012.

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