



MEDWAY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

Founded 1931

(Affiliated to Kent RFU and the RFU)

Address: Priestfields, Rochester, Kent ME1 3AD



Kelly Tolhurst
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20th December 2021

Dear Kelly Tolhurst,

Save Chatham Docks

On behalf of Medway Rugby Football Club, I write in support of the campaign to save Chatham Docks from redevelopment to residential housing.

Medway Rugby Football Club is the largest community sports club in the Medway Towns. Despite problems caused by the ongoing pandemic, our club continues to flourish with nearly two thousand active members of all ages and genders. We run over twenty different teams catering for men, women, boys, girls and mixed ability adults. Our club supports the local community in many different ways, including recently via the donation of computer equipment to schools and raising thousands of pounds for our emergency services.

Medway Rugby Football Club has a long and close relationship with Chatham docks. Many of our past and current senior members were apprentices and then engineers at Chatham Naval Dockyard. More recently, we have benefitted from a great relationship with ArcelorMittal who have provided significant financial sponsorship and the donation of materials to help our self-funded facilities development programme. ArcelorMittal staff, in numbers, are regularly to be found at the club supporting our community based social and sporting activities.

We oppose the redevelopment of the commercial docks as Medway has a very long and rich heritage as a maritime port. Chatham docks provide a critical vessel repair facility and allow over 150 ships per annum to visit Medway, supplying local industries. If the docks were to close, the maritime link would be lost forever. Surely, the current council, do not want to be the architect of such a sad and final act, given our amazing history?

Should the docks close, hundreds of skilled, well paid jobs will be lost forever. These local industries provide a pathway for our young Medway Rugby Football Club members to mature into valuable residents of the Medway towns.



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We have been very impressed with ArcelorMittal's initiative to employ over twenty prisoners from local institutions, helping these individuals to turn around their lives. Another act of supporting the local community.

Lastly, ArcelorMittal provide critical structural assemblies to some of Britain's flagship infrastructure programmes. We believe the council should support, encourage and celebrate the vital contribution a local business is making to National projects such as HS2, Thames Tideway tunnel and Crossrail.

In summary, please support the future of Chatham docks as a thriving operational port, a critical part of Medway's future.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Bullock

Chairperson Medway Rugby Football Club

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