

Hello Robert

Following correspondence with James Ryan of Colchester Borough Council's Planning department I'm writing to you with regards to the above detailed planning appeal, in my capacity as Chair of Wivenhoe & District Sports Facilities Trust (charity number 1068881).

Due to an urgent work-related appointment means I'm now unable to attend the planning hearing in person. However, I would like the following statement to be considered on the Trust's behalf and we will also have Trustees present on the day:

Firstly I would like to make it clear that the Trust does not take a position on the merits of Taylor Wimpey's planning application or the desirability of the proposed development. That is not within our remit. However, in the event that the development is approved following amendments to the application we feel that the Trust is the most appropriate recipient of the community mitigation payment believed to be worth c£320,000.

The Trust, which was set up in January 1998, has legally binding charitable objects that mirror the rationale for the community mitigation payment being levied:

*"The Trust is established for the benefit of the inhabitants of Wivenhoe and the surrounding area by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for recreation, sports and leisure-time occupations in the interests of social welfare and with the objects of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants."*

Currently the Trust oversees the running of the facilities at the Broad Land Sports Ground, which sees in excess of 500 regular users supported by around 110 volunteer hours a week contributed by the three established user groups (Wivenhoe Town FC, Wivenhoe Youth FC and Wivenhoe Tennis Club).

The facilities themselves are run down to the point that their condition threatens the viability of the site in the medium term, whilst also limiting its potential usage (particularly the club house which could and should develop into a community amenity for the North side of Wivenhoe as it expands).

With modern, energy efficient facilities supported by a planned schedule of ongoing maintenance works and increased clubhouse usage to drive revenue. we

are confident that the site can continue to develop and provide a legacy for future Wivenhoe generations.

A schedule of works has been submitted to Colchester Borough Council in excess of the community mitigation payment. It focuses in the main on improvements that would add value for the users of the new sports pitches, whilst also improving the immediate living environment of Taylor Wimpey residents (our direct neighbours). We would like the payment to be allocated towards this spend, but with the flexibility for it to be held for a two-year period to allow fundraising towards a larger scale capital project which would involve the complete demolition and rebuilding of the clubhouse and full car park resurfacing amongst other things.

Schemes such as that completed at Felixstowe and Walton FC over the last few years are a realistic inspiration. The trust can already call upon supporters with a broad skill set to move the project forward including: an accountant, bid-writer, architect, groundworks, health and safety consultants, surveyors and a highway consultant. Community consultation would follow a successful award, to further shape the development options based on potential user interest and also to attract more skilled technical advice to strengthen the delivery. Whilst Wivenhoe has a strong and established civic society and the Trust will look to engage more people able and willing to contribute, the capital fundraising appeal will allow for professional project management and oversight.

We should stress that we were not at any stage consulted with, despite being a recognised and established charity with relevant objects. Had we been involved earlier our plans would be far more advanced already.

We believe that the Trust is the natural beneficiary of any community mitigation payment giving the focus of our charitable objects, the condition of the existing Broad Lane facilities and the potential to create an outstanding, viable community facility that can continue developing as the town of Wivenhoe expands.

Alistair Heron

Chair, Wivenhoe District Sports Facilities Trust (on behalf of the Committee)