

Michelle Houghton

From: Sally Smith DC
Sent: 14 September 2015 09:53
To: bst shared
Subject: FW: Havant RFC Fraser Road APP/15/00832

Please import as additional information from agent. For web.

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From: Steve Lawrence [<mailto:achieve.planning@gmail.com>]
Sent: 13 September 2015 20:35
To: Sally Smith DC; Peter Marshall; Iola king; HRFC Secretary; gordon; Martin Miller
Subject: Re: Havant RFC Fraser Road APP/15/00832

Dear Mrs Smith,

I trust you have had a relaxing break.

The Club has seen the representations on-line from Mr Peters (27.8.15) and Ally Priestley on behalf of Amie Seeley (9.9.15) in respect of application APP/15/00832.

The Management Committee of the Club considers Mr Peters' representation to contain a great deal of misinformation, which does not reflect the Rugby Section's funding of improvements of squash facilities in recent years, in lieu of receiving a contribution towards the upkeep of the building and its related heating, water and lighting costs for the squash facilities in the building.

The Squash Section has in turn had the opportunity to influence its own fate, promote squash membership and seek funding from the Squash Federation. At its recent Annual General Meeting, where the Membership voted overwhelmingly to alter the Club constitution to disband the Squash Section, no person spoke against this recommendation.

The Rugby Club advertises the squash facilities on its website and through its annual handbook.

The sad fact is that participation in squash and the membership income from it at Hooks Lane has been in decline for a number of years and this in turn has prompted an increase of court hire fees.

The Club is a thriving sports venue that needs to invest more into those parts of the Club which continue to flourish, which promote healthy lifestyles, teamwork, respect and discipline in young people. In a business it would not be reasonable to expect to cross-subsidise a function that was not contributing to the overall viability of the business. The same needs to be considered for the Sports Club and we are actively encouraging alternative sports that will grow with the club and contribute to our ongoing success.

The true cost of running squash at Hooks Lane is not touched on in Mr Peters' letter, where the availability of squash facilities at Havant Leisure Centre is conveniently not mentioned.

In overall planning terms, regarding the promotion of physical activity per se, the Club is seeking the change of use to be able to make an investment in natural and artificial playing surfaces at Hooks Lane for 300 children in Under 6 to U16, and Academy age groups and Ladies on Sundays, versus a smaller number that might participate in Squash.

Adequate squash facilities will continue to remain available in the Borough if the proposals go ahead allowing participation in this sport.

As such, the applicant maintains that limited weight should be attached to Mr Peters' views and that the planning balance from the tabled proposals for the local community as a whole weighs in favour of the development sought.

Turning to Amie Seeley's views, competition is not a grounds for with-holding planning permission and Local Authority Children's Service advisors will no doubt confirm an unmet demand for nursery places locally, where Mrs King's children will largely come from her existing nursery school. I am copying this email to Mrs King, who may no doubt make her own views clear to you. Both Nurseries would be able to thrive.

We have also seen Mr Marshall's concerns as the council's Highways Engineer. The Club would like to reassure Mr Marshall that during home games the function rooms are traditionally kept for the exclusive use of the rugby teams and their supporters.

Finally, I hope to be able to send you an additional plan soon indicating the necessary diversion of Public Footpath (Havant) No. 40 to enable the proposed balcony to be built out as a final phase of the Club's proposals, if the council is minded to support the Club's proposals. I again reiterate the suggestion of a Grampian style condition to facilitate that process to enable a decision to be issued on APP/15/00832 within statutory timeframes.

Yours sincerely

Steve Lawrence MRTPI

ACHIEVE – Town Planning and Urban Design Ltd