

COUNCIL – 30 JULY 2020

PETITION – DAVID LLOYD HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTRE

Executive Summary

Woking Borough Council has received a petition which asks the Council to retain the David Lloyd Health and Fitness Centre in Kingfield.

In accordance with Woking Borough Council's arrangements for petitions, the matter has been referred for consideration by the Council.

Recommendations

The Council is requested to consider the petition and determine accordingly.

Background Papers:	Online petition.
Reporting Person:	Ray Morgan, Chief Executive Email: ray.morgan@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3333
Contact Person:	Frank Jeffrey, Democratic Services Manager Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3012
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Colin Kemp Email: cllrcolin.kemp@woking.gov.uk
Shadow Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Ann-Marie Barker Email: cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk
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1.0 Petition

- 1.1 A petition has been received which asks the Council to retain the David Lloyd Health and Fitness Centre in Kingfield. The petition has been received through the Council's online e-petition scheme and contains 475 confirmed signatories and 45 unconfirmed signatories.
- 1.2 The number of signatures exceeds the threshold required for a petition to be referred to a meeting of Full Council and accordingly the Petitioner or their nominee has been invited to present the petition at Council.
- 1.3 The petition has been submitted in the following terms:

"We the undersigned petition Woking Borough Council to Keep David Lloyd private health and fitness club in Kingfield and off Greenfield land at Egley Road.

Woking Borough Council, as landowner and leaseholder of David Lloyd club in Kingfield and landowner at the proposed new site at Egley Road, we, members of David Lloyd and Woking residents, implore you to keep David Lloyd in Kingfield for the following reasons and not terminate their lease:

- David Lloyd does not need to move. It is newly refurbished with state of the art Blaze studios and new courts. The move is purely to facilitate an over-development of Kingfield, in the interests of Woking FC and not David Lloyd members (over 3k).
- It provides great amenity value for the residents of South Woking and beyond who walk as well as drive to the club.
- The new Greenfield site at Egley cannot be justified as the best use of this land, whilst also being right next to Woking Council's own Sport Box new gym.
- It will displace a significant amount of traffic/cars to Egley Road as the club has over 3000 members. This will only seek to compound the existing traffic overload at the Hoe Valley site.
- The proposed new facilities are not in the majority of the members best interests as there are fewer tennis courts and a likely membership fee hike

Thank you for your consideration."

- 1.4 The on-line petition went live on 19 March 2020 for a six month period up to 19 September 2020. On 14 June 2020 the petitioner asked for the petition to be closed; this change was made on 16 June 2020.
- 1.5 The petitioner initially intended to send a nominee to present the petition at the Council meeting. However, on 21 July 2020, the petitioner advised that "*we no longer need to take up the councillors' time with this debate/point*", so the petition will not now be formally presented. However, Council still needs to receive it and decide what, if any, action should be taken in respect of it.

2.0 Officer Comments

- 2.1 In view of the most recent comments from the petitioner, Council could note (i) receipt of the petition and (ii) that the petitioner no longer wants it considered by Council.

REPORT ENDS