

PETITION – DAVID LLOYD HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTRE

[NOTE: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Peter Bryant, has declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in this item arising from (i) him being a member of the Cards Trust (the supporters' club for Woking Football Club), (ii) providing occasional unpaid assistance to Woking Football Club, e.g. acting as returning officer at the election of directors and (iii) being a Council-appointed director of Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited. The interest does not prevent Mr Bryant from advising on this matter.

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Finance, Leigh Clarke, has declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in this item arising from (i) her husband having a small shareholding in Woking Football Club and (ii) being a Council appointed director of Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited. The interest does not prevent Mrs Clarke from advising on this matter.]

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 Executive.

Recommendations

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

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To agree a response to the petition.

The Executive has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers: Online petition.

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Petition – David Lloyd Health and Fitness Centre

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Date Published: 9 June 2021

Petition – David Lloyd Health and Fitness Centre

1.0 Introduction

- 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 104 confirmed signatories and 5 unconfirmed signatories.
- 1.2 The number of signatures exceeds the threshold required for a petition to be referred to a meeting of the Executive and accordingly the Petitioner or their nominee has been invited to present the petition at the Executive.
- 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 /or local 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 is not environmentally friendly as almost all members will have to drive to the Egley road location.
- 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 24 February 2021 and the Petitioner formally asked for it to be closed on 24 March 2021.

2.0 Petition Scheme

- 2.1 As the number of signatories exceeds 100, the petition falls to be debated at the Executive. In accordance with the Council's scheme for dealing with petitions, the petitioner has been invited to attend the meeting and present the petition. The presentation of a petition is limited to not more than three minutes, and should be confined to reading out, or summarising, the purpose of the petition, indicating the number and description of signatories, and making supporting remarks relevant to the petition.
- 2.2 Following the presentation, Members of the Executive will have the opportunity to ask questions of the petitioner. Thereafter, the Executive will discuss the petition and determine what action, if any, is to be taken. To assist the Executive, Officer comments are set out below.

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3.0 Officer Comments

- 3.1 The Development Agreement between the Council (as landowner) and Goldev Woking Limited provides that the Council and Goldev will use reasonable endeavours to enter into an Agreement with David Lloyd which would result in David Lloyd moving to the Egley Road site. The Council (as landowner) will continue to comply with this contractual obligation (although the terms of a tri-partite agreement have not yet been agreed). However, it should be remembered that the David Lloyd Health and Fitness Centre is a private club which can go where it wishes. The Council (as landowner and local planning authority) cannot make it move to Egley Road; neither can the Council make it stay at its current location.
- 3.2 David Lloyd would only be able to move to Egley Road if planning permission for its new premises was obtained. The Council (as local planning authority) refused permission on 23 June 2020. Goldev appealed against this refusal and a public inquiry was held in May 2021. The Council's refusal of permission was robustly defended, and the Secretary of State's decision on the appeal is awaited.

REPORT ENDS