

COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2019

## PETITION – WOKING FOOTBALL CLUB DEVELOPMENT

### Executive Summary

Woking Borough Council has received a petition against the expansion of Woking Football Club and the development of associated residential accommodation. 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.

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**Date Published:** 9 October 2019

## Petition – Woking Football Club Development

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### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A petition has been received setting out objections to the expansion of Woking Football Club and the construction of associated residential accommodation. The petition has been received through the Council's online e-petition scheme and contains 581 confirmed signatories and 79 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:
- 1.4 **“Stop Extreme Proposal for FC Stadium Expansion and over 1,000 New Homes.**
- 1.5 The local area, it's infrastructure and services, simply cannot support this extreme proposal for a 10k capacity stadium (size not required based on current and projected game attendance) and over 1000 flats.
  - Influx of 2k new inhabitants would add unsustainable traffic and parking pressure on already congested local roads.
  - Flat residents will have at least one car. The proposal to only provide 500 car parking spaces for the flats is untenable.
  - Extreme high density flat designs and building heights are not in keeping with local architecture, are visually intrusive, significantly blocking light and privacy for local residents and will significantly alter the character of the local area.
  - Influx of people cannot be supported by local services, such as already oversubscribed schools and doctors surgeries.
  - Stadium will emit immense light and noise pollution for local residents and high levels of transient people in the local area and on the roads.
  - The construction of this development will provide mass disruption on local roads, tremendous noise and environmental pollution for local residents which is undesirable.”
- 1.6 The on-line petition went live on 23 July 2019 and the Petitioner formally asked for it to be closed on 3 September 2019 (it was initially due to run to July 2020).

### 2.0 Petitions Scheme

- 2.1 As the number of signatories exceeds 400, the petition falls to be debated at full Council. 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 will have the opportunity to ask questions of the petitioner. Thereafter, the Council will discuss the petition and determine what action, if any, is to be taken.

**3.0 Officer Comments**

- 3.1 Woking Borough Council has not yet received a Planning Application for the expansion of the Football Club or the construction of residential units. Should an application be received by the Local Planning Authority, residents will be given the opportunity to submit comments on the proposals. In view of this, the Council is advised to formally receive the petition and agree that the objections raised should be taken into account by the Local Planning Authority should an application as described by the Petition be received.

REPORT ENDS