

Wiltshire Council

Council

20 January 2015

Public Participation

Statement from Mr Michael Sprules, - Chairperson RADAR
(Residents Against Development Affecting Recreational Land)

Statement : -

“Health” and “Well-being” of Young Children a Priority as Deficit in “Sport Provision” Identified at West End of Chippenham.

Cabinet Members and attending Elected Members

In light of recent events at Westinghouse Sports Ground, I thought it would be prudent to resubmit this Statement which was originally submitted to Cabinet on 22nd April 2014.

As many Members will know, I have been attending Cabinet and Full Council Meetings at Wiltshire Council for four years now. During that time, one topic continues to cause debate time and time again. That topic is **“Health and Well-Being of Young Children”**.

It has been said that the **“Health”** and **“Well-Being”** of Young Children can be helped by nutrition and exercise. Indeed, the active participation in Sport, of our Young Children, potentially helps in decreasing their obesity levels.

How sad then, that one specific group of over 60 Young Children, at Chippenham, will no longer receive that much needed exercise and Active Sport Participation. I talk here, of course, about the Young Children who attended Westinghouse Sport and Recreation Ground and have been Mentored in Sports by the Members of Westinghouse Cricket Club.

With Westinghouse Cricket Club not receiving the much needed **“Mitigation”** to their new facilities and with the developer's indecisiveness to set out a **“Timetable”** for which **“Mitigation”** would take place, Westinghouse Cricket Club, regrettably, felt unsupported in their attempts to request this **“Timetable”** for their much needed **“Mitigation”** and, therefore, took the decision to Fold.

Therefore, this year, with Westinghouse Cricket Club having folded..... **GONE !!** Is the Mentoring in Sport provided by the Members of Westinghouse Cricket Club..... **GONE !!** Is the much needed exercise that these 60 Young Children had in their lives during the summer months and, finally..... **GONE !!** Is the **“Health”** and **“Well-Being”** that this exercise and Sport participation would have provided to these 60 Young Children and that Cabinet and Elected Members value so much.

It is with some sadness that the loss of **“Health”** and **“Well-Being”**, for these 60 Young Children, weighs heavily on my mind. Just because the indecisiveness of one developer to not provide much needed **“Mitigation”** results in the loss of an 87 year old, well established, Cricket Club, does not in itself demonstrate that the **“Sport Provision”** should also be lost or no longer **“Mitigated”**.

With this in mind, I felt that there was now a need to demonstrate that there is an **“Unidentified Deficit”** of **“Sport Provision”** within the West End of Chippenham. How fortuitous, therefore, that I had only to look no more than 200 yards down the road to the Chippenham Sports Club.

Having met with the Chairman of Chippenham Sports Club, I am now aware of a considerable **“Deficit”** in **“Sport Provision”**. At present, Chippenham Cricket Club have numerous Young Children comprising many Youth Teams. These Young Children have to share facilities with Chippenham Town Football Club – not the most ideal pitch for Youth Cricket - and also use the Grounds at Sheldon and Hardenhuish Schools – which do not have Changing Room facilities that these Young Children so desperately need.

There is an **“Unidentified Deficit”** in **“Sport Provision”** at the West End of Chippenham and now there is **“Available Sport Provision”** at Westinghouse Sports Ground that would be ideally suited and, indeed, accessible to bring even greater benefit to the **“Health”** and **“Well-Being”** of even more Young Children.

Cabinet and Elected Members, there are already 60 Young Children who have lost their right to the **“Health”** and **“Well-Being”** that they enjoyed through Active Sport Participation and **“Mentoring”** once provided by the Members of Westinghouse Cricket Club.

I hope that all of Cabinet and Elected Members would now be prepared to work together with myself, Officers at Wiltshire Council, Chippenham Sports Club, Sport England, the E.C.B., Wiltshire Cricket Board, Siemens UK and Linden Homes in order to help **“Tenant”** Westinghouse Sports Ground so that the **“Health”** and **“Well-Being”** of these 60 Young Children can be restored and that the numerous Young Children from Chippenham Sports Club can also benefit from much needed **“Cricket Provision”**.

Once the **“Tenanting”** of Westinghouse Sports Ground is achieved I hope that all of Cabinet and Elected Members can continue to work with myself and all other parties to facilitate a solution, to this issue, that will, ultimately, be satisfactory to Siemens, Mr. Clive Wiltshire – Managing Director of Linden Homes Western and, finally, a solution that will be to the benefit of the **“Health”** and **“Well-Being”** of all our Young Children, something that I know, from my four years of attending Cabinet and Full Council, that all Members value so much.

May I, once again, thank Cabinet Members and, indeed, Elected Members for allowing me to submit this statement.