

BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL



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19th August 2020

SDC

Attention **Louisa Slator**

Policy Planner

Emailed for expediency louisa.slator@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Dear Louisa,

Beaudesert & Henley in Arden NDP

Thanks for your time on the 'phone this morning, I would appreciate you raising the contents of this letter with other officers of the SDC.

Following a robust meeting with residents on Monday last, it was agreed by all that we lodge a clarification note with you in respect of the draft NDP presently under consideration by consultees.

Inexorably, this otherwise benign document is now being brandished as the final nail in the coffin of the WCG Sports Ground and the **subsequent loss** of Henley and the surrounding area's most precious community asset. We therefore urgently ask that this note be considered alongside the draft presently lodged with SDC.

1. In view of the upcoming planning meeting in order to determine the planning application made by Wasps RFC in respect of the Warwickshire College Site, Henley-in-Arden, the JPC and Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group wish to make the following clarification in respect of the emerging NDP for the joint parish of Beaudesert & Henley in Arden, which is currently in draft format, as it is pertinent to this particular planning application:
 - a. The preservation of community sporting facilities is, and always has been, a key policy and priority of the NDP (see for evidence section 'P3. Community' of the current draft of the NDP).
 - b. Following significant community feedback (which is all evidenced backed), it is intended that the following policy clarification be inserted in the draft NDP in its next iteration:

- i. Since the closure of Warwickshire College as an educational facility, the Sports facilities have been run as a self-supporting enterprise for the local Community. Whilst the facility ceased trading December 31st, 2019, previous to this the Sports Hall, Exercise Gymnasium, and all-weather pitch provided an excellent extra dimension for the leisure facilities of the Community and surrounding catchment area. The facilities were enjoyed by many groups within the community and provided a much-needed focal point for health issues, sports, and recreational activities.
 - ii. The potential loss of this facility is of paramount concern to the residents of the surrounding community and there is overwhelming support that the facilities be maintained for the benefit of all the residents. The NDP therefore fully supports the maintenance of the existing facilities and any application seeking to diminish, restrict or reduce those facilities as they are made available to the Town should be strenuously resisted.
 - c. References in Policy C3 will be updated to reflect and incorporate the above provisions, along with policy C1 which currently resists the loss of existing community facilities and specifically seeks to protect the sports and leisure facilities on the application site. The policy states; proposals which reduce or remove such facilities will not be supported unless provision for equivalent or better facilities is provided (and a secure mechanism for its delivery) in an alternative suitable location.
2. We hope that this clarification clears up any potential confusion as to the views of the JPC, the NDP Steering Group and/or the residents of the Town in respect of the facilities at the site previously operated by Warwickshire College.

This letter along with the results of a poll to be conducted with all residents in Henley and the surrounds, MUST be tabled at the public consultation on Planning Application 20/00066/FUL planned in Stratford later this month.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Evans

Clerk & Proper Officer

For and on behalf of

Beaudesert & Henley in Arden JPC

[B&HNDP Steering Group]