

**Notes of Hammersmith Park All Weather Pitches Public Meetings  
White City Community Centre**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014.**

**Present**

9 local residents - 3 from Batman Close  
John Borough - Friends of HP  
Barry Hunter – MD PlayFootball  
Lyn Carpenter – Executive Director - LBHF  
David Page – Director LBHF  
Virginia Ironside  
Harry Audley

The following themes were discussed:

- 1 Concerns about the new facility quickly falling into disrepair.  
BH assured them this would not be the case as they are contractually required to maintain the facility throughout their lease.
- 2 'Near neighbours', particularly in Batman Close had been led to believe there was going to be a nightclub on site which would be open until at least 1am every night.  
BH explained this was not true, PlayFootball had never proposed a nightclub. He then went through the actual times for 'Lights off and football pitches exited' as well as 'Closing time of the Bar and exit from site'. These were:  
Monday to Friday – Lights off 10.15pm and courts empty, Pavilion shut down at 11pm.  
Saturday – Lights off 9.15pm, Pavilion shut down at 11pm.  
Sunday – Lights off 8.15pm, Pavilion shut down at 9pm.
- 3 Some questions around how will the site be exited quietly  
BH offered reassurance that he would ensure this happened.
- 4 Traffic concerns about increased parking  
BH explained the exact number of car parking spaces, that they will encourage and require their participants to travel by public transport.
- 5 Questions around community usage  
BH explained that out of the 180 hours of free community use allocated to White City residents, only 90 hours of it is needed up to now based on the teams PlayFootball are aware of. HA was invited again to provide a list of those teams etc. that residents believe have been left off. BH also said he would offer further free community usage if there was a demand for it.
- 6 Question about being able to 'turn up and play'  
BH confirmed that this was part of the scheme and local White City residents could do this on the pitches allocated to them.
- 7 Questions about why only football.  
BH explained that there is basketball provision on the site already. LC explained that the council are considering the re-provision of tennis at Wormholt Park. Residents hadn't appreciated it is more than just football and that there will be local provision of tennis and basketball.
- 8 A resident asked whether local people could use the bar facilities

BH confirmed yes. Also that the toilets and catering would be available to users of the Park.

LC confirmed that the Children's playground in the Park was not part of the scheme and would be remaining.

By the end of the meeting most of the residents seemed reassured and happy with what was proposed. Indeed, two older residents in Batman Close asked how quickly could the scheme be completed as they are looking out on an eyesore and wanted it completed asap. LC confirmed that we would take notes from the meetings and send out residents to cover all the detail as they felt misinformed about what was actually planned.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 6.30pm**

#### **Present**

154 members of the public

Stuart Radcliffe – Sergeant Met Police – chair

Andrew Slaughter – MP

Councillors Harcourt, Schmid, Fennimore, MacMillian, Jones, Perez Shepherd, Umeh, Culhane and Aherne.

Barry Hunter – MD PlayFootball

Virginia Ironside

Harry Audley

David Page – Director for LBHF – notes.

The following themes were discussed:

1. Early show of hands demonstrated almost no-one supported the scheme in the current location (three persons put their hands up in support).
2. Opposition to the basic principles of the scheme was the main theme of the meeting.
3. The lack of consultation was another significant topic with people saying the consultation footprint was only 100 from the development so anything south of the park was excluded – Loftus Road – Stanlake Road – Frithville Gardens. BH responded saying there had been two planning processes with consultation and two weeks of direct consultation with the existing users of the old pitch.
4. Questions were raised about why a second application was needed. BH responded that the second application was for the same scheme and it was because an Equality Impact Assessment, which had been completed, was not put on the portal.
5. Questions were asked why build such a scheme in a residential area with light, noise and traffic pollution.

BH responded that he had been through two planning processes and a third was not needed. PlayFootball had responded to a tender put out by the council for that park.

6. People asked what could be renegotiated.  
BH said he was there to listen.
7. A resident asked if PlayFootball could withdraw from the contract?  
BH responded that's up to the council.
8. AS (MP) asked who's scheme was it? Present were an MP and 8 councillors all opposed to the scheme and the scheme should start from scratch again. Several residents echoed AS's point regarding starting from scratch.
9. A young person asked why 'if the park belongs to residents, then isn't paying to play in the park the same as paying to go into my garden'.  
BH responded that White City or nearby residents had free use of 3 pitches for 180 hours a week of which 90 had been taken up. If more were needed for local people then that could be negotiated..
10. A question was asked about the demographics of the players.  
BH said 20% of his users were girls and PF organised girls' leagues.
11. Questions were asked about the future process.  
BH said he would discuss with councillors.
12. Many people made the point that they felt the deal was reflective of the previous administrations approach of putting developers before residents.
13. A resident from Batman Close asked about the nightclub.  
BH responded there would be no nightclub, the bar would be closed by 11.00 in the week and 10 at weekends. The pavilion, toilets and café would be open free to all park users.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm