

WARBOROUGH & SHILLINGFORD CRICKET CLUB

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Mr Michael Herbert
Chairman, Warborough Parish Council
Greet Memorial Hall
171 Thame Road
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14 January 2010

Dear Mr Herbert,

Re: New Cricket Nets in Warborough

I am writing to you to confirm that further to our presentations to the Parish Council at the October and November Parish Council meetings we have now finalised our consultation process with the Parish which culminated in the drop-in session on 12 December 2009.

To date we have received considerable support for our proposal to provide new cricket nets. However it should be noted that during the drop-in session a negative response, regarding the proposed location of the nets on the Green, was received from two addresses located close to the proposed facility.

I have identified the key reasons for selecting the Green as our primary location for the new nets as follows:-

- Cricket is a sport that is currently practiced and played on the Green. In addition to this the precedent for nets on the Green already exists. Unfortunately the existing facility has fallen into disrepair due to its unsuitable location, and hence we are investing in a new facility that will benefit the Club for the future.
- It has also been demonstrated that a key step in developing the older children is to provide a safe environment to practice using a hard cricket ball. This is extremely difficult to achieve without isolating large areas of the Green or the provision of protective netting.
- Coaching for the children has to be delivered in a controlled and efficient manner. This is best suited where all training is delivered in the same area. We also believe that there would be a potential psychological element where the children may not feel part of the training regime. Our alternative option (No.2) does have an exclusive rather than inclusive component and obviously the Club will want coaching to be as inclusive as possible.

- Due to the uncertainty in the way a cricket match unfolds, use of the nets during senior games is difficult if those using the facility cannot see the match as it is played. The Option No.2 is also much further away, which does compound this problem.
- We would like the facility to be used by all within the Parish. As such we believe that responsible use outside of formal training sessions will be encouraged more if the nets are sited on the Green for the Village youth to practice in their own time.
- Although we wish the facility to be available for use by the Parish, the Cricket Club still consider wilful damage of the facility to be a concern. Cut netting and replacement matting will be expensive and time consuming to repair. Whilst reviewing the two options we are confident that this risk is minimised by locating the nets on the Green rather than beside the tennis courts, which is out of site / out of mind.
- We have also reviewed people's concerns regarding the need for 'Change of Use' approval that is required for our Option No.2. Comments received by the SODC 'Planning West' for the previous playground scheme identified an overwhelming majority citing that change of use for this area should not be granted as this would lead to a precedent for future development.
- Finally we need to maximise the return on investment that the Club is making. The option to site the new nets on the Green is the most likely to be used both formally and, more importantly, informally.

During the consultation process we have also received feedback from those who regularly use the Green during the summer months, and as such we are considering modifying our plans to move the nets further north, by approximately 5 – 10 metres, away from the two trees that provide shade to families who picnic in this area. As a result it is likely that we will need to relocate an existing sapling. We intend to discuss this with members of the family for whom the remembrance tree was planted.

I have enclosed copies of the correspondence we have sent out, along with the comments book from the drop in session, for your information.

I now formally request that the Parish Council confirm their support for this scheme in order for both the grant application and also the planning approval stages of this project to commence.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Tiedeman.

W&SCC Secretary