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Planning and New Communities
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16 September 2010

Dear Mr Girdwood,

Re: MUGA Facility in Gamlingay

Thank you for your written questions to Cabinet for their meeting on 9 September. At the meeting Cllr Manning read your letter out in full to the committee. The questions were answered in the debate that followed whilst considering the report but I list below written answers as requested.

1. "Council are being recommended to implement the building of the MUGA on the GVC site rather than adjacent to the GVC to allow the management of the facility by the Community Centre. Do the Council believe that given the recent efforts, by a number of parties to ensure the delivery of this project continues that reverting back to the GVC is the correct decision, when at a time the GVC should be actively supporting the Football Club it has refused.

After full consideration of the report, Member debate and questions from the public, Cabinet agreed the MUGA would be best placed at Gamlingay Village College.

2. Gamlingay Football Club desperately need support for changing facilities for it's teams while the Community Centre is out of use and the GVC have refused to assist in supporting the Club by renting changing facilities to us. This does not strike us, as a club, to be the actions of a "community" minded GVC. We believe the likely outcome of this decision will be a facility that is not fully utilised to its maximum potential and far from becoming a community facility will be a GVC facility with limited community use through the year.

This issue was raised at the meeting and it was understood that GVC made available its changing facilities for the football club in the past, but that given the nature of play on grass pitches this caused a lot of mess in the changing rooms. The school cleaners spent some considerable time cleaning up

afterwards and this was something the school could not commit resources to on a long-term basis.

Artificial turf pitches are clean and free from mud. The school has openly said it will make its changing facilities available for community use of the artificial pitch. There are other villages in South Cambridgeshire with artificial pitches. Some of these have none or limited changing facilities and it is our experience that most users come ready changed to play on the pitch and leave preferring to change at home.

We understand the community centre is on a very quick build plan, which should see it completed at a similar time to the extension of GVC's changing facilities. This would allow users of the grass pitches at the recreation ground to use specially built changing facilities and those using the MUGA at GVC to use changing facilities if required. We would be happy to help facilitate a better relationship between GVC and the community if it felt this is needed. A Dual use agreement will be drawn up and signed by GVC to ensure community use of the facility.

3. The drive needed to make this facility a success has been demonstrated in recent months as the community has taken this project on to ensure delivery at a time when the GVC was under review. We believe the Cabinet would be better placed to make the decision to let the Community Centre manage the facility and therefore drive this project to maximum potential which we do not believe the current GVC are able to do”.

Thank you for this comment, which was read to the meeting for all to consider.

Decisions made at the meeting can be viewed on our website at:
<http://scambsm.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MIId=5010&Ver=4>
with minutes to follow there shortly.

We recognise the hard work and effort put into this project by many people in Gamlingay and are extremely grateful for this.

If you have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Human

Development Officer (Principal lead for sports and leisure)

On behalf of Cllr Dr David Bard – New Communities Portfolio Holder

Cc.
Gamlingay Parish Council
Cllr Bridget Smith
Cllr Sebastian Kindersley
Gamlingay Village College