**FFC Planning Application - Your Park Needs You!**

**Time is running out for your voice to be heard**

**Chair Amanda Lloyd-Harris needs you to write to the Planning Officer** sian.brown@lbhf.gov.uk

**Did you know there may be 200 NON MATCH DAY events, with up to 5,000 people at the proposed redevelopment of Craven Cottage?**

Concerned? Then read on and write to the Planning Officer: Sian.Brown@lbhf.gov.uk

I have been asked by a local resident and member to forward his email about the proposed Planning Application for Fulham Football Club and potential consequences for local residents that appears to have been overlooked in recent discussions.

As you can see the figures are staggering and appear, on numbers that non-football activities far outnumber football matches for which the Club exists. We have asked the Planning Committee and our local ward Councillors to raise these issues and address them before any decision is made. The **Consultation date ends on 18th March** and the application goes before the **Planning Committee on 20th March** which is the last meeting prior to the Council Elections. **Why the urgency?**

Given the sheer volume of documents these figures have only just come to light which given I had a two hour meeting with Alistair McIntosh, CEO and Seal O’Loughlin ,CFO on 8th February these additional events were not mentioned. The Club is a local business in H&F and important but so are residents and their loss of amenity needs also to be considered.

The Friends have a good healthy working relationship with the Club and hopefully it will l continue but we feel that it is paramount that all aspects of the application are considered before a decision is made.

The access and egress through Bishops Parks will be ongoing and I have stated categorically to Alistair and Sean that we do not want the park open at night to allow patrons to leave the Club or its facilities. There is strong evidence from the Met Police that leaving parks open at night increases anti-social behaviour.

Please pass this to local residents who you feel may be interested in their local area, but time is running out for your voices to be heard.  Do write to the Planning Officer: Sian.Brown@lbhf.gov.uk

Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Hands

I am writing to you as one of many people in this area who are deeply concerned at the proposed plans for the development of the Riverside Stand at Fulham Football Club. My particular worry is over non-football events.

From your letter to the FFC CEO following your meeting with him on 26 January, I see that you have asked him a number of questions of which the most important to me is "Will the development entail a wider use of the stadium for non-football events?".

The answer to this question is set out in "The Fulham Football Club New Riverside Stand: Environmental Statement-Updated Non-Technical Summary (January 2018) Paragraph 3.6 on Page 9:

Table 3.2   Hours of Use/Capacity (Non-Match Day Events)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Events** | **Number Per Annum** | **Capacity** | **Opening Hours** |
| High Capacity (e.g. Boat Race) | **10** | **5000** | **11:00 – 23:00** |
| Medium-High Capacity (e.g. Conferences) | **100** | **75-500** | **09:00-18:00** |
| Medium-Low Capacity (e.g. Roof Terrace Hire) | **40** | **35-195** | **14:00-23:00** |
| Small Capacity (e.g. Weddings) | **50** | **50-100** | **08:00-23:00** |
|  | **(Total 200)** |  |  |

As you can see, this amounts to a total of 200 Non-Match Day Events. If these are filled to capacity there will be an additional influx to the area per annum of 112,800 people - presumably many arriving by car and requiring parking spaces, and many not leaving until after 23:00 hours.

To this figure of 112,800 should be added the unspecified influx of people arriving to use the facilities such as "bars, restaurants and cafes, fitness uses and meeting space, which will operate throughout the year rather than as a specific 'event' " – presumably on every non-match day. There will also be a considerable increase in traffic (including HGVs) arising from the need to service these facilities.

All this represents a very great increase in people and vehicles over the current figures. Surely such an impact on the environment of a conservation area cannot be acceptable?

At no stage in the consultation process, except in the depths of the Environment Statement, have these figures been brought to the notice of the public. Nor it seems, were they given to you at your recent meeting with the CEO. The Environment Statement was not published until late January and very, very, few people are aware of it; the public have simply been asked to comment on the summary of 2017/04662/FUL registered on 1 December 2017 in which the only wording relevant to Non-Match Day usage is the mention of  "leisure/retail provision for A1, A3, A4, A5, D2 Use Classes".

As far as I know, none of the comments made up to now, including those by the Fulham Society and the Friends of Bishops Park, have been written in the knowledge of the true plans for non-football events.

Presumably the income from these events represents an important part of the FFC's business plan; the figures in Table 3.2 quoted above must therefore have been known for some considerable time, and well before your meeting with the CEO. In my view, the **FFC have knowingly deceived us** by not coming clean on the figures before the public were asked to comment; and it is disgraceful that they did not do so, thus **making a mockery of the public consultation**.

I believe that the proper course now would be to deem invalid the comments made so far by the public. Any further public consultation should be with the facts and figures of the environmental Impact made clear to all. If this means a delay in the Planning Committee's consideration of the plans,  so be it. Indeed, a good case could be made for the decision by the Planning Committee to be delayed until after the local elections, so that the public have sufficient time to consider the plans in light of the figures given in Table 3.2 quoted above.

At all events, I hope there will be a campaign against the FFC being allowed to have the Non-Match Day Events set out in the Table.

If you would like me to discuss this with you further, I will gladly do so with others of like mind. They will no doubt wish to raise other concerns about the plans, but I believe that the proposal for non-football events is the most alarming.

There is real urgency over this matter as comments have to be in by 18 March and I am told that the Planning Committee is hoping to consider the proposal soon, possibly on 20 March, in order that the decision can be made before the local elections.

Yours sincerely

Your voice needs to be heard; time is running out. Do write to the Planning Officer: Sian.Brown@lbhf.gov.uk