

Parish of Marchwood

Minutes of the Open Forum Meeting

held at Marchwood Village Hall
on Monday 16th October 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present: *Mr F White (Chairman of the parish council) – in the Chair

°Ms B Golden

*Mr D Hindle

°Mrs A Hoare

*Mr D Makinson

*Mr K Petty

*Mr M Proctor

°Mrs J Saxby

*Mr M Saxby

*Mr R Young

* Indicates attendance

In attendance: Mrs M Wathen (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Cockeram (Deputy Clerk to the Council)

Also present: Mrs S Bennison – District Councillor
John McWilliams – Southampton Football Club
Vicki Crossley – Southampton Football Club
5 members of the public

Apologise: Ms B Golden, Mr D Harrison, Mrs A Hoare and Mrs J Saxby.

Southampton Football Club update

John McWilliams, Director of Operations and Vicki Crossley, Staplewood Campus Manager from Southampton Football Club gave a presentation.

Training at the Staplewood Ground takes place all year. The pitches have been ranked outstanding by the Institute of Groundsman.

The club have a vision to be Champions League ready by 2021. This includes facilities and infrastructure ready and to the required standard to play in the Champions League.

The next steps are to develop the Staplewood Ground further. Planning permission has already been granted to replace the portakabins at the old farm entrance.

We are looking into the possibility of a new visitor access so that the Park Farm access off Long Lane can be closed. This will reduce the amount of vehicles on Long Lane and the disruption this can cause to residents.

SFC would like to achieve a Safety Certificate for the site so that residents can then attend and watch U18 and U21 games.

We really want to engage with the local community. We have a database that people can be added to so that they receive updates from the ground regarding information about upcoming events and what is happening at the site.

Park Farm entrance, you say you would like to close this, where will the traffic enter and leave the site from instead? **We would like to have an entrance and exit direct from the A326 to stop vehicles from coming into the village. This is currently being looked into.**

Progress on Safety Certificate – **Once more than 500 spectators are on the site a Stadium Safety Certificate is required. This will be part of the next planning permission process.**

Dome – has this been replaced yet? **The dome has a life cycle of about 10 years. The dome will need to be replaced as it is variable in temperature and not the best conditions for training in. In the summer it can be very hot and in the winter cold. We must provide an indoor training facility due to the level of club we are.**

Academy students – age, where do they live? **Day release starts at U12's to U16's. They are released once a week from school. Host families (70) take in the boys to provide a home from home environment for 2-3 days per week. 8 part time teachers are employed to help the players with their schooling. The academy programme starts at U9. Players are only allowed to travel up to 1 1/2 hours to get to training. Therefore there are also training academies in Bath and London.**

What about female players? **They still have limited opportunities to train at the Staplewood Ground as there are so many boys' teams. The vision is that in the future the female set up will mirror that of the boys.**

When we last met we spoke about the vision of community facilities such as a gym – **This is still being progressed and will be considered as part of our plans for the future.**

Is there any land close to Twiggs Lane that could be used as a car park for school parents? **We believe that the area next to Twiggs Lane is protected under planning. We will look into this though.**

Thank you to John and Vicki for attending this evening and we hope to see you again in the future.

Questions from the floor

Twiggs Lane – the parking at school drop off and pick up times is awful. The speed that vehicles drive along Twiggs Lane after coming off the A326 is also unacceptable. **This is an ongoing issue and will be difficult to resolve.**

Why are benches provided within the orchard when the gates are locked? **The fence has been erected to allow the orchard time to get established. We hope to open the gates in the future and maybe lock them over night.**

Young people on bicycles are pulling out of side roads in front of cars – **The Police are aware of these young people. You are advised to report any incidents to the Police on 101.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.20.

Chairman