

10/1990

Millside

Middle Mill Lane

Cullompton

Devon

EX15 1JP

4th October 2014



Re; Northwest Cullompton Urban Extension Stage 1 Consultation

Dear Sir,

I write as the Welfare Officer at Cullompton Rangers Football Club to comment on plans for the development of our town.

In the consultation a number of sites are mentioned for the location of new sports pitches but in the town we already have successful rugby, cricket and football clubs together with two crown bowls clubs so I would suggest improvements to these facilities would be of greater benefit to the town.

In addition to this any new pitches will require dressing rooms, facilities for officials and toilets. A groundsman will need to be employed for pitch upkeep, erection of goals, nets and corner flags, the checking for and removal of dog mess and the cleaning of the changing rooms.

The impression I got from the presentation that it would be sufficient to create pitches without the additional resources.

On one of the plans a proposed travellers site is situated next to the pitches, in my experience, travellers and sports pitches do not mix.

At Cullompton Rangers we run senior teams and youth teams from the ages Under 7s to Under 18s.

We are an FA Charter Mark Development Club and to achieve this all our coaches must hold a current coaching qualification, first aid certificate and child safeguarding certificate. All coaches and assistants have to undergo criminal records checks under the Disclosure and Barring Service prior to becoming involved at the club.

At present the club provides a club house, four changing rooms, facilities for the officials and toilets both inside and outside of the clubhouse.

We currently have the use of four full size pitches all of which can be divided up to accommodate the smaller areas used by some of the youth teams.

With the number of players we already have our pitches are coming under increasing pressure and with the number of new dwellings proposed for the town this pressure will no doubt grow particularly as some of these houses are to be affordable homes for families.

The Football Association has recently amended its rules to allow competitive matches to be played on what are called 3G (third generation) rubber crumb pitches and the aim of our club is to install one of these pitches at Cullompton Rangers ground.

There is already a sand based all weather pitch at Cullompton Sports Centre but this should not be used for competitive games due to the risk of injury due to the design of the surface.

My understanding is that Cullompton Rugby club would be interested in using this facility for training as would some of the schools in the area.

It is also possible that with a new pitch the club would be able to offer association football to women, girls, and the disabled. We already run Ability Counts tournaments on behalf of Devon County FA and have staff trained in the coaching of disabled players.

We have already had discussions with Devon County FA on the matter and they are very supportive and we believe a grant from The Football Foundation would be forthcoming in support of the project.

At present we have no firm estimates of cost due to the need for full surveys and the attendant cost of these.

I would ask that the council give consideration to requesting that any developer gives financial backing to this worthwhile project.

Yours sincerely,

Richard S Bedford

