

PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - PETITION FOR KEEP SPORT AT WHITEOAK

Council - 21 April 2020

Report of Chief Officer Customer & Resources

Status For Consideration

Key Decision No

Recommendation to Council: That, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the Council consider the petition submitted by the lead petitioner, on 21 April 2020 and determine any action that it wishes to take in response.

Introduction and Background

- 1 A petition has submitted been submitted with 2063 confirmed signatures in the following terms:

'We the undersigned petition the council to KEEP SPORT AT WHITE OAK Petition to Cllr Peter Fleming, Leader of Sevenoaks District Council We the undersigned (live, work or study in the district) call on Sevenoaks District Council to: i) Not adopt the council's current plan, ii) Consider adopting an alternative plan, iii) Fully consult with residents and White Oak users on new proposals, iv) Develop a new plan that meets the requirements of residents and White Oak users. Sevenoaks District Council plan to replace the White Oak SPORTs and leisure centre with a small activity centre containing a half size pool, no deep water, no sports hall, no practice hall and less studios/party/meeting rooms. There will be a game of limited age range popularity called TAG Active, which is found alongside bowling alleys, trampoline centres and soft play areas. The new centre is not fit for purpose, is not supported by Sport England and breaches many government and local policies (NPPF). More than 18.

KEEP SPORT AT WHITE OAK

Petition to Cllr Peter Fleming, Leader of Sevenoaks District Council

We the undersigned (live, work or study in the district) call on Sevenoaks District Council to:

- i) Not adopt the council's current plan,
- ii) Consider adopting an alternative plan,
- iii) Fully consult with residents and White Oak users on new proposals,
- iv) Develop a new plan that meets the requirements of residents and White Oak users.

Sevenoaks District Council plan to replace the White Oak SPORTs and leisure centre with a small activity centre containing a half size pool, no deep water, no sports hall, no practice hall and less studios/party/meeting rooms. There will be a game of limited age range popularity called TAG Active, which is found alongside bowling alleys, trampoline centres and soft play areas.

The new centre is not fit for purpose, is not supported by Sport England and breaches many government and local policies (NPPF). More than 18 sports clubs face closure making 900+ members 'homeless', of which 400+ are young people.

We, the White Oak Clubs Committee, have prepared alternative plans professionally costed at £7.54m and £13.2m compared to the council's £20m. Our plans include space for all or nearly all of the activities and sports currently available and more, and all on the White Oak site.

We believe our plans represent value for the council tax payers money - OUR money.'

- 2 This ePetition and concurrent paper petition ran from 24/02/2020 to 14/04/2020 and has now finished.

The Council's Petition Scheme

- 3 The Council's Petitions Scheme provides for petitions containing more than 1,000 signatures to be debated at full Council and also that petitions which relate to an issue which affects a particular area of the District and have a significant level of support from people who live, work or study in that area are also likely to be debated at a full Council meeting.
- 4 The Council can take whatever action it deems appropriate to respond to the petition which could include referring the petition to Cabinet or any council committee, to commission further investigation or to take no action at all for reasons put forward in the debate.

Key Implications

Financial

Any financial implications would depend any action taken.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

None directly arising from this report.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

