

Save Gosling Campaign Group

Update Briefing 11th January 2019

1) GLL related matters:

A Freedom of Information request has been submitted.

We have raised questions with GLL Partnership Manager Craig Woodward and expect replies within a week. Peter Watts (Squash Support Group) is meeting with Craig Woodward in relation to the Squash relocation.

We are requesting a meeting on Wednesday 16th with Craig Woodward as GLL representative.

We are lobbying MP Grant Shapps to help save the Sports hall from closure, he is responding positively so far.

Local Councillors Nigel Quinton (County), Malcolm Cowan, Fiona Thomson, Terry Mitchinson and Siobhán Elam (Borough) have attended the campaign meetings and public meetings and been very supportive.

2) Gosling Sports Park Trust

A meeting is being sought with the Trust urgently.

3) Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

WHBC should look at enforcing any repair conditions of Lease agreement with GLL.

We shall seek a list of any dilapidation notices that have been served on GSPT & GLL from the council, along with an asset management plan.

We shall seek a meeting with council leader Cllr Tony Kingsbury and Cllr Terry Mitchinson Executive Member, Leisure, Culture and Communications.

We have written to Handside Ward Councillor Fiona Thompson inviting her to our group.

4) Welwyn Hatfield School Games Partnership

We are working with others to collate figures of school children using the facilities, when, how many and how often.

We are in contact with those organising the school's involvement regarding the Centenary celebrations in 2020, the celebrations also include events at Gosling.

5) Herts County Council

Have contacted Jim McManus, Head of Public Health and will seek to leverage his support.

The Herts Association of County Leisure Officers (HACO) of which Paul Underwood (Head of Policy and Culture) is the WHBC representative:

6) Badminton England and Sport England

Email received from BE's Head of Development offering support which we will take up. England Squash have also emailed support.

7) Other

We continue to get concerns from groups at the centre, including, recently, Kestrels Disability club with 40+ members and the Childcare with 46 that operates every week day all year.

In order raise awareness of GLL's intended closure we will seek to get a stand in WGC town centre to make residents aware and seek their support.

We have pencilled in the 26th January (Saturday Morning) this to be confirmed, all are welcome to attend.

Our petition online has almost 4,500 signatures, see here:

<https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-gll-management-and-welwyn-hatfield-borough-council-whbc>

We need your ongoing support if we are to effectively campaign to prevent this closure, please do follow our progress online at the following websites for now:

On Facebook:

Search for @savegosling
https://www.facebook.com/SaveGosling/?modal=admin_todo_tour

If you would like to be kept updated by email, please email us at:

savegosling@gmail.com

The Save Gosling Campaign Group.