

## Sports Centre Consultation Drop Ins

### Feedback from Public Drop ins ( 4<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013)

#### What I don't like about the Sports Centre

The following represents the views of those that visited the drop ins and are not in any order of priority – the issues have also not been checked on site so this is entirely based on the comments made and mainly using the words of those that attended. They do not necessarily represent the views of the city council, the Friends of Southampton Sports Centre or Active Nation.

- **Car Parking** -was reported to be a problem both to local residents and to regular users – particularly in Holly Hill, Dunkirk Road and Roads around the White House
- **Dog fouling and dog control – dog fouling was still felt to be a issue**, although it was generally described as not so big a problem as it used to be following the introduction of dog bins. There was concern for users about dog walkers allowing their dogs to run over and foul on sports pitches particularly
- The **current system for paying for bowling and putting** - people were concerned that they had to go to the changing block at the bottom of the hill to collect scoreboards and mats and to pay – then walk back up the hill to play bowls
- **Toilets in all blocks** - there was concern that these are now of poor quality given their age and the period since the last refurbishment – there is a need for improvement. Other comments related to the fact that the toilets were locked at times, and did not have not always have sufficient soap or toilet paper.
- **Lighting** - users suggested that there was insufficient light and that improvements are needed on routes between key facilities and car parks but also along the Holly Hill cut way . There was also a comment particularly from dog walkers that there should be safe, lit routes for them to use at night..
- **Bins** – users felt there were not enough litter bins and on occasion it was just discarded.
- **Quality of pitches** – it was felt by some that there is scope to improve the quality of the cricket pitches
- **Transport** – concern was expressed about the lack of bus access, especially in the evenings – a recent change in bus routes resulted in the removal of the bus that used to to the Sports Centre
- **Cycle routes to the Sports Centre** – some felt that there should be safer routes for people to cycle to the Sports Centre
- **Play areas** – there was a general feeling that the play area by the boating lake needed improvement although everyone seemed to enjoy and praise Jack's Corner play area
- **Refreshments** – there was concern that the only location to buy anything to drink was the Sporting View which had been closed for for

some time (and whilst it had only just reopened few people knew about this ), people wanted the ability to buy refreshments and ice creams at other locations around the Sports Centre

- **Cars** – driving through the Sports Centre – people felt the numbers of cars going through the site had increased which they fear is a safety issue particularly for children – some comments were made that the code to the barrier was in general circulation (and so abused).
- **Paths** – they were described as badly worn in some places, particularly going to the cricket pitches which is difficult with bags on wheels. There was concern about the path going up to Coxford Road as it was breaking up and making it difficult for runners and cyclists as well as people with buggies / prams.
- **Signage / information / communication** – this was a common theme
  - there were complaints about the signage to the pitches / pitch identification which causes confusion when away teams arrive
  - the lack of signage and publicity for events and activities
  - The lack of signage and information for disabled people explaining how to access the site. The marking of disabled bays in the Dunkirk Road car park had been eroded away.
- **Reporting** – some felt there was a need to have clear instructions on where to report damage or dangerous items
- **Motorbikes** - one resident explained how she had seen Motorbikes going off road and using the Sports Centre as a circuit – residents felt that these should not be using the facilities but reported that it is difficult to stop them, this is a safety issue .
- **Conflicts** – residents reported conflicts between people/dogs and cyclists around the new BMX facilities
- **Conflicts** – there were reports of conflict between runners, cyclists and cricketers around pitch 4
- **Water features**– some families would like to see water features to enjoy in the summer
- **Cyclists going too fast** – people were concerned about the speed of cyclists particularly when there were dogs and children around
- **Fences** – needing repair behind the "View"
- **Reopened "View"** – some dog walkers were concerned that dogs were no longer allowed in the building. It was felt that the new venue needed to be promoted effectively.
- **Bowling Club House** - the bowlers felt that their facilities were insufficient to operate as an attractive club – locker rooms and toilets but no venue to welcome visitors to (this problem has since been solved by the Club talking to the tenants of the View who have offered them a room for post match teas and to supply the necessary catering)
- **Deterioration** – generally most people felt that the Sports Centre had significantly deteriorated in recent years
- **Facilities/Activities for children** – it was felt that there was insufficient for children to do at the Sports Centre, this was also related to holiday, weekend and after school activities

- **General Maintenance** – some felt that there was scope for improvement in the maintenance of the soft and hard areas of the Sports Centre
- **Quality of changing facilities** – there was particular criticism about the athletics changing block for which there seemed to be a general consensus that it needed improvement
- **No Focus for clubs** – numerous sports clubs asked for a venue where they could have club meetings and display noticeboards and trophies

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