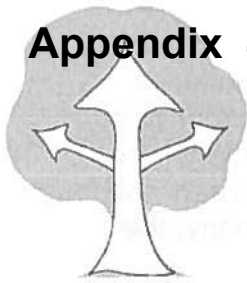


Appendix 4



NEWSOME Ward
Community FORUM

Newsome Ward Community Forum Limited

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Company No. 9322588

19th February 2019

Giles Chappell
Asset Strategy Officer
Kirklees Council
Civic Centre 3
Market Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2EY

Ref. Bowling Green, Newsome

Dear Mr Chappell

Thank you for allowing us the chance to comment about the Covenant placed on the Bowling Green in Newsome; many of us feel very passionate about what is happening here.

Members of our community are amazed that the Council can allow the damage done to the Bowling Green to go ahead with no penalty. The Green and Pavilion have always been highly treasured facilities in our community. The members of the Bowling Green were open, and invited us all in; we used to have our Management Committee meetings in the pavilion, a craft group used to meet in the pavilion, the Scouts used to use the Bowling Green because of its central easy to access location.

Our view is that a covenant is a legally binding enforceable agreement. Planning permission does not override any restrictions. Burden of covenants contained in a lease will generally run with successive owners, therefore it is a useful way of ensuring covenants remain in force, ensuring that the land continues to provide the benefits for the community that was originally intended.

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In the interest of visual and resident amenities for existing and future residents, Kirklees Council, who agreed the covenant, could and should have enforced it during the four or so years when the residents of Newsome, and further afield, were fighting to save the Green. They could and should have insisted that the owners left the land as a bowling green. Although the building, Newsome Working Men's Club, had been made into a limited company, the Bowling Green had not then been incorporated with it.

The Land Registry website states that covenants can be lifted as a sports facility if it has not been in use for twenty years. Local members only stopped bowling when they were locked out of the site, and the Pavilion demolished with little notice, and they would return to the Bowling Green if it could be regained by the local community. The health and wellbeing benefits of the Green cannot be overstated and local residents will be worse off for the loss of the Bowling Green.

Kirklees Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 recommends under the heading of Bowls, to 'maximise access to existing provision'. Under the heading of 'Demand' the strategy goes on to say:

- Junior membership is more prevalent at private clubs compared to council based clubs.
- Analysis of club membership shows that demand has generally remained static over the previous three years. Nearly a third of clubs (29%) report increasing membership but none consider this to be restricting any further growth.

Members of the Bowling Green still receive the liquidators reports, and the latest report stated that full payment for the site has not been made, so how can the current lease holder be supported to develop and sell the land, that he doesn't fully own yet?

The Newsome Ward Community Forum is an umbrella group, allowing lots of small local groups and residents to share resources, share information, and support each other. We understand the strong local passion for the preservation of the Bowling Green in Newsome, and hope our submission goes some way to helping decision makers also understand that strong local passion. We hope that you will support local people to retain the site as a bowling green for current and future generations.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Elliott
Secretary