

Charlbury Cricket Club Est 1874



[REDACTED]
Cornbury Park

Charlbury

Oxfordshire

OX73EH

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

CC: Peter Kendrick, Charlbury Cricket Club Trustees and Chairperson

[REDACTED]

Local Green Space designation of the area used by Charlbury Cricket Club– Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you for your call last Monday evening and your subsequent letter, which I have now passed on to the trustees and chairperson of Charlie Cricket Club. As agreed, I have also copied in Peter Kendrick, vice chair to the Town council to our response.

As I indicated on the call, the Cricket Club have been hugely grateful for the support that the Cornbury Estate have afforded the club, over many years, that has ensured cricket, in its various formats, has been played at this same venue, since 1874.

As you are aware, the club have continued to develop, since the somewhat challenging position we faced in 2007 following the complete devastation of the ground and facilities, by the River Evenlode bursting its banks. We came to the estate with our plans for the future and the requirement for a more permanent security of tenure and through the proactive nature of the estate, we were able to secure a new 25-year lease which was the catalyst for ECB and local community and council funding.

As a result, we are now able to offer cricket, daily over the summer period, for all genders, ages and abilities; having over 270 members from the Charlbury community and beyond. We have a thriving girl and ladies' section and we are seen as one of the most forward thinking and progressive clubs in

[REDACTED] Charlbury, Oxon [REDACTED]
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Oxfordshire, I think it would also be fair to say that we are at the forefront of the community offering, when it comes to Sports provision in Charlbury.

You will no doubt appreciate that the fundamental aim of the Trustees of the Cricket Club is to ensure that the cricket club is both sustainable' financially and administratively, which will include the provision of high-quality facilities in Charlbury and we will do everything within our power to ensure that this happens. It is therefore with a slight element of dismay that we find ourselves caught in an element of crossfire between the Town Council, and the estate as detailed within your letter of 28th October.

As we read it, the estate feel that a designation of the land used by the Cricket Club as Local Green Space in the Neighbourhood plan may have the following potential impacts, directly on Charlbury Cricket Club; -

- a) The highest policy restrictions in terms of planning could at mean that use of the ground as we use it currently, could be highly restricted with potential restrictions placed on the location of nets, storage and possibly limit any opportunity to extend the facilities. We are already receiving a challenge from WODC regarding the use of the old pavilion, which is fundamental to our machine and playing equipment storage requirements.
- b) Such a designation will discourage the estate in granting the use of land for community use due to the potential designation as Local green Space in the future. This is particularly relevant, as the cricket club wish to approach the estate for the need to extend the western boundary further by approx. 10m to facilitate provision to play at a higher standard of cricket
- c) It is by no means clear that events for fundraising and community use such as the annual beer festival and community fire work display, that are a fundamental source of funds to the cricket club and wider community, will be open to challenge through the designation.
- d) Overall, it may have consequences regarding the estates approach to granting the cricket club further security of tenure, if it is perceived this could have a determinate effect of the estates value, control and use of land.

Whilst we have not canvassed any party involved with designation or indeed made any representations during the consultation of the Neighbourhood plan, we do feel that the Town Council have acted with good faith in hoping to secure that the cricket club remains as a community asset for many years to come. Additionally, I am sure that they do not see such a designation as leading to a complete restriction of the activities of the cricket club or estopping the beer festival holding their annual community event in the location. .

Our position is as follows: -

We would like to work with all-parties to secure the future of cricket in Charlbury and ensure that we are not seen to favour any approach.

. We certainly do not wish to see unnecessary restrictions placed upon the use of our ground or the events that can take place upon it, but we clearly will encourage any provision that will secure the long-term future of the cricket club in this location. Therefore, we wish to work and collaborate with all parties in this aim.

Our duty as custodians of the club is to encourage sport, enhance fitness and wellbeing and embed the cricket club as a key asset and focal point within the community. We hope that all parties will support us in this approach, whatever their position of the draft Charlbury Neighbourhood plan and allow the cricket club to thrive by ensuring the long-term sustainability and use of the club; in its current location.

We trust this states our position clearly.

With kind regards,



On behalf of the Charlbury Cricket Club