

Dear All,

My name is Jason Simmonds and I am the current Vice Chairman of Folland Sport F.C.

Some of you will have had correspondence from me over recent months concerning the proposed development of land known as Folland Park located within the GE Aviation facility at Hamble Le Rice.

My reason for sending a collective email is to draw attention to what I believe are un-answered questions regarding the development of the sporting facility for proposed housing, which goes before the local area committee on the 19/12/2019.

A bit about me. I have been a member of Folland Sports for over 30 years and have been involved with Folland Sports F.C since 2011, from coaching and managing youth teams, as child welfare officer to the club, as well as being involved in managing adult football. Currently Vice Chairman, I have lived in Hamble Le Rice for in excess of 30 years and my family have lived here since the second world war.

- **Folland Sports**

Currently we are home to two Saturday Follands veteran football teams, two Sunday Tyro under 16 youth teams (Sholing under 14s and 15s Reds) and one Sunday veteran side.

Not subject to development, but still included in the planning application, is our Sydenham's Wessex league standard pitch, home to our Wessex league Division One and our Wyvern East Division sides.

In short, we are home to 7 football teams!!

During the summer months we are home to county class cricket with two teams with a high-quality cricket square.

Also named in the application is our high-quality bowls facility.

The proposed development has many objections on many fronts within the village and seems to contravene the Borough council's Sport and lifestyle Strategy 2016-2020, both on their "Executive Summary Aim 1,2,3,4", the strategic context, as well as numerous paragraphs within the document. **Note:** We are named in the document as number 18 on the existing sporting facilities map. <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/sport-health-parks-and-open-spaces/sport-and-health/our-sport-and-active-lifestyle-strategy>

Within the application are proposals for: -

- **Mitigation of football pitches**

No attempt has been made to promote or upgrade local grass pitches within the parish, which are currently of poor quality and more accustomed to dog walkers than football.

Money has been vouched to be directed towards an artificial pitch on the former Vosper Thorneycroft site, now home to Sholing F.C - this facility would not even be within the borough let alone the parish!

- **Mitigation of cricket square**

While the promise of moving the current cricket square to the parish College Playing fields, "Roy Underdown Pavilion", has been promised, this idea is still flawed as the area again is home to 1 full size football pitch and 1 9v9 size youth pitch as well as being subject to constant dog walking. It is also noted that money has again been offered to cricket clubs outside of the parish.

- **Upgrade of Folland Park F.C**

Contained within the application are proposals for the retention of the stadium pitch up to step 6 level, a new club house with a capacity of 100 people, minimum size 95m², a 25-year lease, along with fitted kitchen. All these statements are somewhat ambiguous

1. Currently our floodlights are condemned by our landlords and while they are undergoing a full survey on their serviceability, our future is unclear. Without concrete tenure in place we are unable to seek either private finance or grants to address this should they not be repaired or upgraded by our current landlords. At this current time this makes us non-compliant with Wessex league standard rules.
2. We have no designs or artists impressions of the potential new facility available for comment. We would request liaison with the respective leagues to discuss the facilities proposed to ensure that they comply with potential step 6 requirements and that all have able bodied and disabled access.
3. No information on the food or beverage licensing arrangements have been provided. These are critical to the sports club's future as they provide a valuable revenue stream. We also have no information on what rental agreement would be sought with any potential landlord.
4. On the current plan we have a net loss of a training / warm up area which is critical to the football club. There is also no mention of machinery in order to keep the facility maintained.
5. There has been no mention in the planning document of how the sports club is also a social hub for many older residents of the community. Many of the villages senior citizens regularly attend it as a meeting place vital to their social wellbeing, as well as attending fitness classes and many other social events such as indoor skittles, cribbage, snooker. Surely any new building would surely have to take this into account.

In short, there are a lot of recommendations and proposals concerning what could happen but no concrete proof in black and white is evident. If planning were to be approved there would be no guarantee that a new landlord would agree to any of the proposals.

In my opinion, all the above issues should be set in stone prior to any planning being approved. This would ensure that we are able to provide good quality long term facilities which enhance the Borough strategy, keep facilities in the Parish, as well as being in keeping with government legislation concerning health and wellbeing. Until this happens, I believe any decision should be deferred.

Kind regards

Jason Simmonds. Vice Chairman Folland Sports F.C.