

23 January 2018

Brighton & Hove City Council

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Deputations received:

(i) Deputation: Proposed 3G at Hove Park

We believe that the provision of 3G pitches will provide the local community with much needed facilities. I think it is only fair that football achieves parity with tennis in having some facilities for the exclusive use of football in Hove Park. Any other parts of the park used for football are shared facilities whilst, assuming the 3G pitch goes ahead there will still be seven courts exclusively for tennis.

We (Hove Park Colts) are an expanding club and currently run 15 teams from under 7 to under 16. In addition we are working with the Sussex FA to start girls teams (U6 – U11) with the ambition of becoming a SEE Wildcats centre. To continue to be able to offer young people the opportunity to participate in sport we need these facilities.

Albion in the Community (AITC) has also expressed an interest in using the facilities for their community based charity work looking to inspire and motivate young people and their families to be physically active and to lead healthy lifestyles; to provide opportunities for young people to play football, whatever their ability or background; and to work with the local community, particularly those that are disadvantaged, to help raise aspirations and improve life chances.

We have a local school that has also expressed an interest in using the facility if it were to become 3G pitches.

Walking football has also expressed an interest in using the facility if it were to become 3G pitches.

We believe that 3G pitches will offer great facilities to the whole community all year round whatever their, gender, age or background. This would be an inclusive facility.

With regard to other options for a surface we believe that these would not be as beneficial to community as a whole. Giving tennis exclusive use for 6 months of the year would severely restrict the number and diversity of the people able to use the surface. Just having nets in place stops general use that may suit a school and AITC.

A 2G surface is also a compromise that doesn't suit anyone. According to Sport England as a 2G surface only gets one star out of five for both tennis and football. It is not recommended for anything other than recreational use and not competitive sport or training. My understanding is that Hove Park tennis plays in a competitive

league. The current size of the tennis facility also does not meet the minimum size laid down by the Lawn Tennis Association.

I believe that the committee is fully aware of the economic benefits of running the facility as 3G pitches as opposed to 2G with tennis. For the facility to be sustainable it must be run as 3G.

Signed by:

Matt Short (Lead Spokesperson)

Susan Sessions

Adrian Clayton

Mark Sessions

Stewart Gray

Neil Shelley