



West Linton Community Council

Notes of Open Meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2009

In the Graham Institute at 7.30pm

Additional Outdoor Recreational space

This meeting was arranged by the Community Council in order to gauge the opinion of the community on the need for additional outdoor recreational space at West Linton.

Margaret Harrison opened the session and highlighted the main purpose of the meeting - to have an open discussion on the requirement for additional outdoor recreational space in the village. It was mentioned that if a need was identified then a Steering Group would require to be established from the community in order to identify and progress future plans and action. The Community Council would be available to provide support and assistance, as appropriate.

The current uncertainty regarding the future of the playing field on Deanfoot Road was raised with many attendees agreeing that the community needs additional recreational space, ideally within a central location to ensure it is accessible to all.

There were a number of suggestions put forward regarding the layout/use of the land surrounding the new primary school, although it was mentioned that any action/proposals should not jeopardise the plans for the new school.

A number of concerns were expressed regarding the overall lack of recreational space in the village and also SBC's plans for the use of the land surrounding the new school. It was identified that there were options to ensure that the community's voice is heard by the Council for example petitions, formation of a Steering Group, meetings with SBC.

Comment was made that the plans for recreational space need to ensure there is the right level of provision not just for now but also for the future as the village continues to grow. Certain groups are already progressing plans/initiatives for recreational space however it was mentioned that all interested parties/groups need to be involved to ensure any new facilities meet the community's overall requirements. Alternative scenarios also need to be considered to provide flexibility.

It was identified that the initial key issues that will need to be addressed by any Steering Group include a) whether the current Robinsland Development plan can be altered b) what are SBC's plans for the provision of playing fields within the new school (particularly with regard to SPP11) and c) what is proposed for the playing fields during construction?

It is important that the Steering Group starts an early dialogue with SBC to ensure that it can influence SBC's plans with regard to playing fields on Deanfoot Road and any alternative sites.

A Steering Group is in the process of being established to look at the provision of indoor facilities within the village and it is important that both Group's co-ordinate action.

A number of attendees expressed an interest in being part of a Steering Group and Chris Tait agreed to be the initial contact point. Anyone that is interested in being involved in this initiative either as part of the Steering Group or to provide comments/support should contact Chris Tait in the first instance.