

Football Club redevelopment

There have been many newspaper reports recently about the Council wishing to relocate the Football and Athletic Clubs from the Stompond lane site to purpose-built facilities in Waterside Drive next to the Leisure Centre. **All of the reports have said that the Tennis Club will remain on its present site.** The Council will eventually be seeking Planning Permission for this development but until they get it, there can be no progress in relocation. Should this happen, it is assumed that the Council will sell the vacated part of the Stompond Lane site for housing.

The Football Club do not wish to be relocated and have been working for some years on a £15m redevelopment plan for Stompond Lane. **They have a court order and a date set for April 2012 to try to get the Council to renew their Lease, which expired in 2004.** Currently, they have an exhibition in their clubhouse showing their plans, which will of course be subject to Planning Permission. As well as a new pitch, stadium and stands, the redevelopment will involve the building of a number of businesses on site – a 20,000 sq ft medical centre, an 18,000 sq ft fitness centre and a 6,000 sq ft nursery. Also they hope to build 10 houses along the Stompond Lane frontage. If it goes ahead, all this development will result in a large and long-term escalation in traffic onto the site at all times of the day with a resultant increase in noise and disturbance for our club.

Committee members have visited the exhibition and these are some of the concerns that have been expressed about the plans:

- There has been no consultation with the Tennis Club.
- No boundaries are shown between the Football Club and the Tennis Club. There are serious health and safety, security and child protection issues with many cars and strangers apparently free to use Tennis Club land.
- Land covered by our Lease has been used for Football Club redevelopment.
- The entrance to the Tennis Club premises has been moved to an unsuitable position.
- A large car parking area runs close to and parallel to our courts with access requiring trespass onto the land covered by our Lease.
- The practice wall has not been shown on their plan; no site is shown for its reinstatement. This is a requirement under the Licence that we hold with Elmbridge Council.
- There is no safe access to our site for essential maintenance and emergency vehicles.
- The entrance to the 20,000 square foot medical centre and the associated car park will be very close to our courts and air dome and will cause continuous noise and disruption.

VISIT THE EXHIBITION AND GIVES US YOUR COMMENTS

The exhibition will continue in the Football Club until 17th December and will be open between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as during home matches. All Club members are asked to visit the exhibition. **Please let me or other Committee members have your comments, preferably by e-mail.** We shall continue to keep you informed.

CAN ANYONE HELP WITH HIS/HER PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE?

As a Committee, we shall make sure that the Council, the Football Club and the Councillors are all kept fully aware of our views on any plans and proposals that are made. Please let us know if any member has particular expertise (e.g. planning, legal) that may help us to put our case to the Council when the time comes. Our goal is to look after the interests of the Tennis Club to ensure that we can be successful for the next 70 years.

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Secretary
29th November 2011

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