

## **Werrington Neighbourhood Council Meeting (WNC)**

Held on 25 November 2019 at Ken Stimpson Community School(KSCS) Canteen at 9 p.m.

Present: Martin Greaves, Ivan Hammond, Geoff Smith, Bill Mercer, Vince Moon.

Apologies: Roger Proudfoot, Kay Molyneux, Pauline Fury. Sally Weald also did not attend as she had a possible conflict of interests being a school governor.

Purpose of Meeting: Decide WNC position on Werrington Sports Field Fencing Proposals.

General Discussion: It was felt that the ethos of KSCS as a community school has been very important since it was built and the shared field has been an important part of this. However we recognise that times change and problems with this arrangement have arisen recently, particularly with regard to the issues of student protection and animal fouling on school playing fields. These have been identified by the Local Authority and the school as concerns that need to be addressed and reflect Ofsted's safeguarding expectations.

We recognised that there has been some very vocal local opposition to the proposals both on Facebook and at the public consultations, although we felt that this was probably not the majority view in Werrington. Four issues have been highlighted by those opposing the proposals: 1) Impact on the environment, 2) Loss of amenity of field to general public, 3) Visual impact of ugly fences, 4) Impact on nearby houses, noise etc.

We felt that the proposals fencing off just 3 football pitches in one corner, did as much as is possible to minimise these impacts. However there was some lively debate about the possibility of the use of blackthorn hedging instead of the wire fencing proposed. There were conflicting views about how effective hedging could be and it was recognised that there would be long term cost implications with this option, although some form of natural mitigation of the fencing would be desirable and make the whole project more acceptable to residents, especially those living nearby.

Further the alternative proposal of fencing off part of the other side of the field would both fragment the field left for public use and result in the creation of two long narrow enclosed pathways that would lend themselves to anti-social behaviour.

Position adopted: Agreed that Vince will submit an online response to the plans when they were submitted along the lines of this discussion, supporting the proposals but noting the opposing views and the possible mitigation measures.

Meeting closed at approximately 9.25 p.m.

Vince Moon, 27/11/2019