



8 Limes Road ,  
Egham, Surrey  
TW20 9QT

2nd May 2016

Councillor Marisa Heath,  
Chairman, Community Services Committee,  
Runnymede Borough Council,

Dear Marisa,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Egham Residents' Association in the aftermath of the meeting about Mrs Caddey's Field at the Manorcrofts Primary School last Tuesday (April 26).

We are pleased that you were able to attend the meeting, and we are encouraged by the comments you made both then and on Facebook the following morning.

The meeting was the largest and angriest in Egham for 20-or-so years, and sent an unmistakable message of public hostility to the idea of allowing Virginia Water Football Club (VWFC) to have a new 'built' ground – including a stand, floodlighting, clubhouse with bar, changing facilities and parking for approximately 170 cars and coaches - on Mrs Caddey's Field.

Although a detailed layout of the proposal for the field was drawn up, without our knowledge, last October and was shown at the April 26 meeting, we are very much aware that there is currently no planning application. But there plainly is - or has been – an intention to push this matter forward into a planning application, notwithstanding the fact that Mrs Caddey's Field is open Green Belt land.

It is our strongly-held opinion that the field should never have been offered as an option for solving VWFC's difficulties and ambitions.

We struggle to understand how and why that happened. We would be very interested to know if any councillors were consulted before that first step was taken.

The "idea" is now due to come back to the Community Services Committee that you chair, and we believe that it must be killed at or before that meeting (on June 16). The argument that the proposal meets an unfilled demand for sporting facilities in the area is a matter of contention and not of established fact. And even if the demand were fully established, it would certainly not follow that the need should be met on Mrs Caddey's Field.

A cry of 'Not on Mrs Caddey's Field' rang out very clearly at the public meeting. Any decision to proceed with the proposal would be widely regarded in Egham as a slap in the face for local opinion and democracy.

Many of us have been mystified ever since the offer to VWFC was first reported to the Egham Royal Show AGM on February 15. From what we do know, the game has never seemed to be worth the candle for Runnymede Council. This has led to suspicion that there is something going on that has yet to be revealed. And that feeling has been exacerbated by the odd arrangement last Tuesday, by which the meeting was the football club's but the council picked up the bill for the hire of the school hall. The meeting greatly suffered from the lack of an independent chairman, and the presentation contained spurious and inaccurate information (eg regarding national policy on changing facilities for children).

We hope the proposal will now quickly be rejected out of hand.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Fisher  
Egham Residents' Association