

WDC Matter 7B Submission – Correspondence from Kenilworth Golf Club

Dear Dave,

Further to our meeting on the 18th March 2016 I am now in a position to clarify the position of Kenilworth Golf Club in respect of the revised Warwick District Local Plan. At the Club's Management Meeting on Monday 12th April 2016 the revisions to the local plan were discussed and the attached "Notice to Members" sets out the Club's agreed position.

As you will note the Club has taken the view that the proposed new housing development and education facilities to the south of Crewe Lane will have an inevitable impact on the setting and character of Kenilworth Golf Course. However, this expansion in the local population will also provide opportunities for the Club in the attraction of new members and serving the needs of the local community. We also consider that the siting of the course remains a desirable location and that in the foreseeable future Green Belt designation will serve to protect the course and its immediate environs.

The Management Committee also endorsed the view of the importance of continuing the dialogue with your authority to ensure that the impact of major new developments on our boundaries take fully into account the particular needs of a Golf Course to ensure that it remains attractive to members and continues as a viable business. With this in mind we would reaffirm our wish to be fully engaged with the planning process for eastern Kenilworth through the preparation of the Development Brief and any other relevant policy statements. We are particularly concerned about increased traffic generation and associated safety and access issues, the security of the course in a much more urban context and screening of new development to protect the views from the course.

In the light of the observations above Kenilworth Golf Club will not be making any representations on the revisions to the Local Plan but would wish to be fully involved at the next stage of the planning process should the proposed housing and educational facilities to the south of Crewe Lane be approved.

Kind Regards,

Dave Noon
Director, Kenilworth Gold Club

Members Note on Warwick District Council Local Plan

As part of its "watching brief" responsibility the Management Committee has reviewed the latest housing proposals for Kenilworth put forward by Warwick District Council (WDC) and has also met with Planning Officers to identify any possible impact on the Golf Club.

The WDC proposal leaves the Club land as Green Belt but includes an allocation for housing and a school, on all the land between the Thickthorn roundabout and Crewe Lane, with building taking place during the period up to 2029. The view of local planning officers is that access to the new houses and the school is most likely to be via Glasshouse Lane, Crewe lane itself should not be affected.

Inevitably the character of the land to the south of the course and Crewe Lane will be altered, however an increase in the number of residents and the proximity of the school does provide an opportunity for additional members and the possibility of links between the school and the Junior section of our Club. Arguably the Club will become an increasingly important and valuable leisure facility in the local, growing community, a point which has been made to the planners.

From a golfing perspective the current Golf Course land is probably the most desirable position anywhere in the Kenilworth area. Continuation of Green Belt status means that the Club land will be protected during the period of the current local plan. The Management Committee will continue discussions with WDC and HS2 and monitor carefully the impact of local developments.

Continuing with the 'watching brief' and remaining in Green Belt provides the Club with both opportunities for growth but also preserves our independence and flexibility for change if and when it is needed.