



# WALMER CRICKET CLUB

ESTABLISHED 1865, BASED IN THE VILLAGE OF SHOLDEN SINCE 1984

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Principal Planning Officer  
Dover District Council  
White Cliffs Business Park  
Whitfield  
Dover  
CT16 3PJ

21 AUG 2020

PLANNING SECTION

19 August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

## Application Reference DOV/20/00419 – Betteshanger Sustainable Parks

We write in relation to the proposed Section 106 agreement with Quinn Estates, and in particular to the suggested allocation of £94,196.96 to Betteshanger Social Welfare Scheme Trustees in connection with pitch improvements at the Betteshanger Social & Welfare Sports Club, based in Cavell Square, Mill Hill, Deal.

We understand given the constraints of the site, that improvements to outdoor sports facilities in the immediate vicinity are not possible, and that therefore an off-site contribution is therefore necessary. However, we do not understand why the proposed allocation is being made to a facility that is outside of the District Council Ward that the development is taking place in, and also why it is being made to a single beneficiary when the Dover District Playing Pitch strategy document clearly indicates needs in other locations as well.

Mention is made within your Developer Contribution Document that improving pitch quality at Betteshanger Social and Welfare Sports Club is an "emerging priority" identified from work being undertaken to update the Dover District Playing Pitch strategy. This strategy document was produced in 2015, and was due to be updated in 2020, however we are keen to understand how such an allocation is being made as a "priority" when club's such as our own have not been consulted in relation to updated data and consequent needs.

Since the Strategy Report was compiled in 2015, there have been a number of changes surrounding cricket clubs within the district, not least in the Deal area, where our Club is now the sole representative in the Kent Cricket League (the top tier of recreational cricket in the County). The unfortunate decline in the playing numbers and strength at other local clubs has to a degree worked to our benefit, albeit that the proximity of two major new housing developments and our dedication to the development of youth cricket have also been significant factors.

The report indicates that the maximum capacity for a cricket pitch is 3 games per strip per season; our 10 strip square saw 55 games in 2019. This season did not of course start until mid-July due to Covid-19, however the number of games would have been similar to the previous year. With our playing numbers at all levels steadily increasing, and the prospect of running an Under 15 Team in 2021, as well as our existing U13 & U11 Teams, the strain on our cricket square will intensify further.

We would therefore ask Dover District Council to consider allocating a slice of the £94K of funding to our club to enable us to extend our square by at least 2 strips, thereby allocating funding where it is currently needed.

Yours sincerely

Andy Grigg  
Treasurer

Affiliated to: England & Wales Cricket Board, Kent Community Cricket, Shepherd Neame Kent Cricket League, Kent Regional Cricket League, Kent Village Cricket League, Saxon Shore Junior Cricket League, Pharon Canterbury Indoor Junior Cricket League. Corporate Member of Hull Park Sports Club.

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