

Ground Development Update

Essex Chief Executive David East issued the following open letter to those members and supporters who attended the Public Exhibition on the Ground Development of The Ford County Ground at the end of May.

The invitation to offer your support to the planning application is now extended to all of our supporters.

Dear Sir/ Madam

I would like to thank you for your attendance at the public exhibition on the future plans for The Ford County Ground hosted jointly by Essex County Cricket Club and our Ground Development partners MCD (Chelmsford) Ltd. The exhibition gave us a chance to hear the views of local residents and our members.

Around 500 local residents and members of the Club visited the three-day exhibition in May. We received over 120 written feedback forms, with over 80 per cent supporting the scheme. The vast majority of attendees welcomed the plans and wanted to see the retention of First-Class cricket in Chelmsford. The inclusion of new public spaces and better linkages with the town centre were highlighted as very positive elements of the scheme.

A number of comments were made at the exhibition and these have been carefully considered and a number of changes have been made to our plans. The detail of these issues and how they have been addressed is as follows.

HOUSING

Some people queried the amount of residential units as a part of the scheme. The Club has worked very closely with the developers to ensure that this is a sports-led development, which enables improvements to



be made to facilities for spectators and players at The Ford County Ground. After consultation with the planning officers, the density and mass of the residential elements has been reviewed. The proposed housing adjacent to Hayes Close has been changed to make it more in keeping with the existing residential accommodation.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

A comprehensive traffic assessment has been carried out as part of the masterplan application. This has established that the effect of the development will be negligible on local roads, given the improved pedestrian and cycle access to and from the Town Centre. The existing New Writtle Street car park and Club parking will be replaced by a new public multi-storey car park.

MEMBERS' SEATS AND PARKING

Several Club members queried the provision of parking and seating for members. The Club will be reviewing club members' parking and a variety of seating options are being considered if affordable. As yet no final decisions have been made on these points.

FLOODING

The masterplanning team has ensured

that each element of the scheme incorporates flood defenses. The plans have met the Environment Agency's criteria for flood defenses.

A planning application has been submitted to the Planning Department of Chelmsford Borough Council. The official consultation period for the application to redevelop The Ford County Ground began on Monday 28th July. It would greatly benefit the Club's vision for retaining First-Class cricket in Chelmsford if you could write to or email the Planning Department in support of the application. For your information their contact details are as follows:

Planning and Building Control Services
P.O. Box 7544, Civic Centre,
Duke Street, Chelmsford CM1 1XP

Email:
planning.comments@chelmsford.gov.uk

If you would like further information, please visit our website www.essexcricket.org.uk

Yours sincerely

David East
Chief Executive, Essex CCC

