

WIRRAL COUNCIL

APPENDIX

CABINET

21 JUNE 2012

Mr Jim Wilkie
Chief Executive
W.M.B.C.
Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral
CH44 8ED.

Formal Complaint 21st March 2012.

Dear Sir,

I write to lodge a formal complaint into the behaviour & conducted by Senior Council Officers of the above departments.

That complaint is based on the total lack of openness on the outset of this venture, a repeat on the same behaviour relating the Tranmere Rovers venture in late 2011. Behaving that has a very big impact on the Residents of Wirral whom they service.

It is clear like the TRFC venture there has been a lot of behind the scenes contact/work over a long period of time for the proposed development at the Bebington Oval grounds to reach its current position in going forward to Planning consent and the disposal of Council Land for this development.

Once it is again this behaviour by Council Offices in hand with the Developers raises three very serious concerns,

1. **That of the impartiality of the Officers evolved. I feel it reasonable to question the impartiality of the Council Officers from all departments connected with this development? The grounds for this is that we the Residents have only been informed about this development once the necessary notification (s) had to be "Issued" on the transfer of Council Land & the submitting of plans for Planning Approval. I also feel it fair and reasonable to question what has taken place in the negotiations between both parties that gave confidence to the Developer to proceed to incurred considerable cost on drawing up plans and reports in order to apply for planning permission when they have no ownership rights to the Land in question? The advance stage of this matter indicates the possibility of a pre-agreement that this development will go ahead. It is also fair and reasonable to call into question the motives by all concerned in the need to exclude the Public**

from what is a very important issue a clear action to reduce their time and ability to respond in a meaningful way through open consultation a every stage of this development which is their right.

2. **The full inclusion of the elected members at all stages of this development.** With regard to item two on contacting my Ward Councillors Mr Jerry Williams & Mrs Sheila Clark I was meet with a situation whereby **Councillor Williams had no knowledge of this matter** and **Sheila Clarke only had limited knowledge** but both were not aware that this matter was at the level of proceeding for Planning Approval or the disposal of Council Land. It is therefore reasonable to question the communication by officers and others of information on what is a very important development within the Bebington Oval that has an impact on all the Wards in the WMBC area. A problem/situation that my Councillors in the Bebington Ward along with those in the Clatterbridge Ward have voiced to me a number of times over the past year. This raises a very serious matter on the ability of elected members to represent the interests not only of their Wards but the wider community of Wirral?
3. **The rights of fair/reasonable consultation with the Residents of Wirral.** This purposed development has very significant impact on the facility known as Bebington Oval which in Council ownership is a **designated area for Recreation & Sport with a very Significant Historical Value to the whole community of Wirral.** The failure of the Council and its Officers in Consulting with the Residents of Wirral firstly on the intended disposal and use of this land at Bebington Oval prior to reaching the current position shows the highest level of disregard to not only the Democratic System of Governance but also the Duty & Trust entrusted to these officers in working for the People of Wirral.

This is not an isolated problem as I've stated it follows the same pattern as the TRFC affair last year. It also highlights a very serious issue on how the assets in Council control and care, that belong to the residents of Wirral are being managed in a style that is very secretive allowing the freedom of Officers to conclude their own wishes and desires on the outcome prior evolving the People of Wirral. It has over a period of time been demonstrated that there exist within the Executive Arm of Council a moral corruption at the highest levels of Management along with inefficiencies at the expense of the People of Wirral and I call upon you all to instigate a full inquiry/investigation into not only this matter but in the running of the HR/Asset Management and Planning Departments.

I also call upon you all to take steps to engage in Meaningful Consultation by means of open Public Meetings into this development, and to honour the commitment by both Elected/non-elected Members of Council to deliver open accessible Governance to the People of Wirral.

Finley I wish to point out that my complaint is of those who are the senior managers in charge of running these departments and not about the staff under their control. The residents of Wirral luckily to have staff employed by Council who have shown the highest levels of Moral Standards and some have taken a stand at their own expense in protecting those standards and the people of Wirral, I'm truly grateful to them all.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Boyd.
Higher Resident.

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