



HYDE PARK OLYMPIC LEGACY

May 2013

SECOND Press Release re. Planning Application 13/00868

for residential (24 homes) and retail store on site of Sports Field, Sports Hall and Swimming Pool, formerly used by Leeds Girls' High School, now owned by The Grammar School at Leeds.

Hyde Park Olympic Legacy is the action group set up to save the former Leeds Girls' High School playing field, sports hall and swimming pool on Victoria Road for community use.

South Headingley Community Association recently submitted a Community Right to Bid application to Leeds City Council on behalf of HPOL.

A Community Right to Bid is a means of communities registering their interest in buildings or facilities that are important to local people even if, as in this case, the facilities are in private ownership.

This bid was placed because of the long-established use by local people of the sports facilities on the south side of Victoria Road. Local groups used to hire the swimming pool and sports hall from the high school, and sports camps were held on the field in school holidays. In 1979 residents of Ash Grove held a street party there with permission from the school. All this was in addition to unofficial use by generations of Hyde Park residents who used to play cricket and football on the field.

HPOL has developed a business plan for a self-financing Social Enterprise that will be able to provide sports, leisure and recreational facilities for local people and importantly, local schools which are chronically short of sports facilities.

However, first we need to defeat the current planning application to 'develop' the site by building 24 houses on the field and replacing the sports hall and swimming pool with a convenience store. If successful, this planning application would destroy the green field forever and replace the sports hall/swimming pool with a convenience store which is not needed and would harm local shops who already struggle.

Headingley Councillor Martin Hamilton said, "This part of Leeds is one of the most densely populated and has the least amount of green space for its residents not to mention the health problems which the retention and development of sports facilities could alleviate." Headingley Councillor Neil Walshaw added, "For the sake of the community we urge the developers to drop this unwanted scheme. Enough is enough!"

Objections will be accepted up to May 21st but please try to get them in by May 10th by emailing planning@leeds.gov.uk or writing to The Development Enquiry Centre, The Leonardo Building, 2 Rossington Street, Leeds LS2 8HD including your name and address and planning application no. 13/00868.

For more info contact:

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