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Closure of Perivale Park Golf Club by Ealing Council

1 message

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To: mayor@london.gov.uk

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Bcc: Kenneth Koranteng <kenneth.koranteng@sky.com>, Chris Christides <chris@christides.co.uk>

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing on behalf of Hon. Sec. of Perivale Park Golf Club (PPGC) in West London, which is under threat of closure by the Labour-controlled council in Ealing.

This is a course that was established almost 100 years ago as a municipal golf course where working class people can enjoy a game of golf at affordable prices. Today the golf course caters for a variety of people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, abilities and disabilities, and, importantly, that caters for these people's mental and physical wellbeing.

This is the only 9-hole flat course where older people or people with less mobility, along with beginners, women and younger people, can learn the game of golf at affordable prices. The course hosts players from many parts of London, including East, South East, North and Central London who travel to the club by public transport because they have lost affordable amenities in their own areas.

The threat of closure is based on the council's and your aim to build a new Regional Park in West London to emulate the Queen Elizabeth II and Lee Valley Regional Park in East London. At the same time, the other aim is to deal with the climate crisis by planting more trees in Ealing, and in London as a whole.

Firstly, we want to state that we are in support of the principles of the proposed Regional Park as well as of combating the climate crisis by the planting of trees. However, just like the Regional Park in East London that kept its golf course, there is absolutely no reason why Perivale Park Golf Course should not be an essential and contributing part of the vision for the new 'regional park'.

We would welcome more trees at the park, and we had considered making a request to Ealing Council (EC) to use some of your plan for more trees in London in our park as it would have come from your budget and not theirs. However, I must point out that we must be mindful about planting more trees at the park which is a designated flood plain for River Brent, and experts in this area (such as Brent River and Canal Society) may have advisories on the subject. Further to this, we are led to believe that there may be plans to build a lido and an art centre which would arguably contribute to the flooding problem? Building these concrete structures on existing parkland would also be at odds with trying to go even greener!

We had shared well-defined plans with EC for a course redesign to enable more rewilding and more trees to be planted but that was not even taken forward as a possible and viable alternative for a win-win situation where the golf course can co-exist within the regional park, preserve existing wildlife habitats, and maintain well-established flood control systems..

We believe that the case that EC is putting forward is weak and full of inaccuracies and not following proper process. With that we have begun a series of formal complaints that we feel need to be addressed and, if our complaint is not upheld, we will be taking the case to the Ombudsman, and also consider Judicial Review.

The Council itself has not yet carried out a full feasibility study with due consideration to financial viability, either, and yet they want to close the golf course on 30th June 2024.

In addition to this, Sports England advised EC on 19th December 2023, "... To create and develop a secure, financial future for a world class regional park would take time and further consultation." They recommended that the golf course was kept open until further work was undertaken that demonstrated that a) the park could deliver the benefits set out in the consultation, b) this was the right site for the creation of a regional park, and c) the impact the loss of this golf course could be mitigated.

It is not unreasonable to expect that EC and the Mayor take note of the recommendations made by a well-respected organisation who are specialists in their field.

Taking all the above points into account, the deadline set by EC is totally unrealistic. We would therefore urge you to

use your power to intervene and put a stop to this madness as a minimum: for the deadline to be suspended to next year to allow more detailed considerations a chance.

Can we count on you, Mr Mayor, to show your support to your supporters in this issue?

yours sincerely
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