



March 2009.

Dear Member,

Much has happened over the last few weeks so I have decided to take the opportunity to write to you to bring you up to speed with our intentions for the future of The Windsor Club.

For some time the Club has been seeking an alternative venue in which to expand and improve its facilities. **It now appears that a solution has been found in an agreement with Windsor Boys School to develop a new facility on their grounds.**

This new Club will be modern and exciting offering all of the existing facilities in a new format together with an indoor pool, sauna and steam rooms and a much more luxurious yet still homely feel.

Although the new Club will be built on school land it will have its own access straight from the main road (just as it does now), its own car parking and to all intents and purposes will feel like a standalone club. Club members will also gain access to floodlit tennis courts and the existing sports hall. In return the school will be able to use some of the facilities during off-peak times and an additional classroom and viewing gallery will be built.

Funding for this venture has already been secured in principle and there is a strong desire on all sides to see this plan succeed.

The site of the current Club has been earmarked for a new residential care home that will also include new facilities for the Red Cross and Mencap. Shelbourne Senior Living, a leading care home specialist, has submitted a planning application for this proposal.

There is intended to be a seamless transition between the closure of the current club and the opening of the new facility, meaning that you will at no time be without use of your Club. In fact the availability of funding to build the new club is dependent upon this seamless transition.

Provided this seamless transition to the new facility can be assured, I will be fully supporting this application and suggest that it is in the Club's overall interests for members to do the same.

health • fitness • squash

Overall I believe this scheme is a brilliant way forward for all concerned. The beneficiaries clearly include:

- The Club itself, as this proposal helps to safeguard its future.
- You as a Club member, benefitting from brand new state-of-the-art facilities.
- Windsor Boys School, who gain improved sports facilities for both students and staff.
- All current and future local residents, who will gain a new and improved amenity in the neighbourhood.
- Club staff whose job prospects are secured.
- Our resident therapists and our Day Nursery (all of which will be re-housed in the new building) who will gain new and improved facilities.
- The community, which will gain a new care home facility if Shelbourne's proposals are successful.
- Mencap and the Red Cross, which gain brand new facilities if Shelbourne's application is approved.

Our current landlords have been extremely supportive of the Club's situation and ambition, providing us with reduced rent and an extended lease in order to assist our plans.

Many members have already made representation to the planning authority in some cases objecting strenuously to the proposals to develop the existing site. Obviously each member will make his or her own decision about how to approach this. However, let me put my cards on the table – an absolute refusal of Shelbourne's proposal for the existing site is, in my opinion, not in the best interests of the Club or its members – the existing Club is unsustainable in the medium or long term. **The Club's future depends upon this whole process going through.** If you share my view, I strongly recommend that you write to the planners supporting Shelbourne's proposals, albeit with the absolute caveat that the timing be controlled so as to allow the seamless transition to which I have previously referred. **If you have previously written objecting to the proposals it would be helpful if you write again** 'amending' your objection to one of support for this new proposal, once again subject to the caveat.

As always, I would be very interested to hear what you think. My telephone number is **07736 879255**, alternatively I have enclosed a 'feedback form', which can be returned freepost, for you to let me know your views. In the meantime, I will endeavour to keep you updated on these proposals.

With my very best wishes,



Steve Lewis
Managing Director – RFL (owners of The Windsor Club)