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Clerk to the Council:
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Chairman:
Cllr John Richardson

20th October 2017

Dear Neil

Re: Community Right to Bid Review – Thorp Arch and Boston Spa Cricket Club.

I refer to your email regarding the cricket ground and the request made by the landowner for a review of the decision made and in reviewing the case put forward by the landowner would comment:

Thorp Arch & Boston Spa Cricket Club (TABS) is a thriving cricket club that has played cricket on the village cricket ground for the last 145 years or so.

The cricket ground is located in the heart of the village and membership has grown substantially in recent years and the club operates both junior and senior teams, with over 100 junior cricketers playing in seven teams and two Senior Teams

The cricket ground is a safeguarded playing pitch under Core Strategy Policy G6, but it has been a long standing aspiration of the landowner for housing on the cricket.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG) consulted with Carter Jonas who represents three major landowners in the parish. Due to an inconsistency between significant support for retaining the cricket club in the village, and general opposition to any new housing development, the SG hosted a village meeting on 3 July 2013 for Carter Jonas and TABS to present their proposals to residents, the results of which are available to view in the `Evidence` section of the Thorp Arch Neighbourhood Plan website under "TABS Survey 3013 Results."

The survey received 91 responses representing about 20% of households, of which 87% lived in the village of Thorp Arch. The first question asked was "Is it important to have a cricket club in the village", of the 91 responses received 37.4% voted yes to `Very Important`, 49.5% to important and 13.2% to not important.

This clearly shows the importance which is attached by residents to retaining the cricket ground in the heart of the village.

We are quite sure that local membership will vary from year to year but at the presentation made by TABS in July 2013 it was reported that of the total membership, around 75% of players live in Thorp Arch and Boston Spa, with most of the rest living nearby in Clifford, Bramham, Walton, Kirk Deighton, Spofforth, Wetherby and Tadcaster.

The presentation made by TABS can be viewed in the `Evidence` section of the Neighbourhood Plan website under "Carter Jonas Presentation TABS 160113 docx"

More recently Ryan Sidebottom a local resident and Yorkshire County Cricket Club player who is retiring from County cricket this year, was appointed TABS Club Chairman and the ground held one of his Testimonial Celebrations a team of celebrities and fellow YCCC mates against a TABS 11 team.

We also are informed that Ryan Sidebottom will be playing for TABS 1st X1 next year

From the above we feel confident that this further information clearly shows that the cricket ground meets the criteria set out to comply with the definition of an asset of community value.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Richardson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Richardson
Chairman
Thorp Arch Parish Council