

Tinshill Recreation De-Fence Group Speech to Council

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My Lord Mayor, Council, My name is ? and our deputation is from the Tinshill Recreation De-Fence Group.

With me here today are

~~Gail Asquith~~

Mr Drakes

~~Mrs Drakes~~

Jason Gill

Alan Procter.

We are concerned about a plan to turn our recreation ground into pitches built to Sport England Standards, and fence off at least two of them, against the wishes of our community. These are the issues.

- 1) **Community Engagement**, the council have not listened to the views of local people, only six people are known to have supported this project. The Plans panel were against it. So were many elected representatives.
- 2) **Equality Monitoring**, the council are building pitches that will be mainly used by men, to the exclusion of women, pre- school children, the elderly and disabled.
- 3) **Safety**, We have seen no evidence of a Playing Field Risk Assessment as could be provided by ROSPA.
- 4) **Sports Pitch Strategy**, There seems to be no proper plan for fields in Weetwood, there are other proposals to destroy pitches at Boddington, Lawnswood, and Otley Old Road.

We have some questions that we would like to have answered about this project, and ask the council to consider them and put them to its officers?

1) Permitted Development, we would like to know if a planning rule called an Article 4 Direction could be used to stop the fence, if the council so wished?

2) Sport England, We would like to know if Sport England were consulted before the new School was built on sport pitches, or during the planning process for the fence?

3) Scrutiny, we were told that Councillors were to refer the matter to a Scrutiny Board. We would like to know if this matter has been referred for Scrutiny, and if not, how we can apply?

Our Group is opposed to the fencing of our recreation ground, we won the planning application and were told that the fence would be built anyway, there has been a lot of debate, and the result is the same. We understand that the fence will be built in February.

We ask the Council to reconsider its decision to build the fence. If they cannot, maybe its erection could be deferred until after the election in May, because this seems to be a political decision and the people might have an answer?

Please sign our petition to Gordon Brown, it can be found on our website at tinshillrecreation.com.



Ten-year-old boy impaled on fence

A boy has been airlifted to hospital after becoming impaled on a fence he was trying to climb over.

The 10-year-old was trying to get over the 6ft (1.8m) railing near a public house in Bentilee, Stoke-on-Trent, when it went into his chest.

Emergency services were called and fire crews cut through the fence. A six-inch (15cm) spike was still in his chest when he was put in the ambulance.

The boy's injuries are thought to be serious but not life threatening.

His condition was described as stable by ambulance staff who took him to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

A Staffordshire Police spokesman said the boy's parents were with him as fire crews tried to cut him free and he had been conscious and talking.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/staffordshire/7185294.stm>

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