

WOODKIRK VALLEY



Woodkirk Valley Football Club

(Founded June 1st 2001)

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Honorary President: Mr. J. Francis

EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL PITCH/GYM/HALL – LETTINGS POLICY

Deputation to Full Council – 19th November 2008

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My Lord Mayor and Members of Council,

Good afternoon, my name is Mark Dilworth, I am The Manager of Woodkirk Valley Football Club Under 7's Team and I am accompanied by Mrs Alison Sherwood who is our Clubs Lettings Officer.

We are here today, to highlight our concerns, with the existing policy for issuing The Lettings of External Sports Pitches and Internal Sports Halls to Charter Standard Clubs such as ours. We would like to state, that we are here to offer our advice and experiences to the Lettings Unit, who do a very good job. For the record, we would like to thank the Department for all their efforts and assistance over the years.

We are aware that our time in the Chamber is very limited this afternoon so we will be submitting supporting documentation that will be freely available to any Member, from any Ward, at the end of our Deputation and we will be available to attend any meetings in the future to address our concerns.

Members Of Council, we would like to ask the question, How are decisions made as to who receives Lettings, via Education Leeds, what is the procedure please? How is it, that a Club who wishes to be allocated a particular School Hall for Under 6, years of age children, for 6.00pm – 7.00pm is actually allocated a Timeslot, of 7.00pm – 8.00pm yet the same said School and Time is allocated to an age group of Under 10, years of age children? Should the Timeslots not be age allocated? This has impacted on us as a Club and we have had to secure a private venue via M.I.C.E. Monies. We have had to appeal to our Morley South Councillors to allocate Monies to us, to secure somewhere private, as quite simply, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, it is too late a Timeslot for the children!

BSF and PFI Schools, how are the Lettings for these Schools monitored, allocated? Should there not be more involvement with the elected Ward Members? What agreements could be put in place, prior to permission been granted for building these Schools, that would state what timeslots were to be made available to the local Community. We are concerned that there is not

enough Transparency concerning how the allocations are made, can we work together to fine tune the procedures?

Most Clubs are geographically based, we would like to put forward to you that this needs to be looked at in detail. We ourselves are in a situation where we have to travel, usually by Car from the area where we are based near Woodkirk High School, to Schools in other areas such as Middleton and Rothwell, where we pass on route, members of another Club who are travelling from those areas to, Woodkirk High School! There are many more examples of this that we can submit to you and this will be happening in your Ward! We ask the question, when deciding on which Lettings are allocated, could The Department not allocate on a geographical base?

Cancellations, of course there are always going to be circumstances that are beyond the control of any forward planning but there are many circumstances, where we are informed that the Letting is not available, sometimes at a moments notice and it is clear that the reason for the Halls use must have been known about weeks in advance, for instance, a hall closed due to extra-curriculum studies night. We therefore request that in the Lettings Policy, which we have to sign up to, that there is a minimum amount of notice that must be given to the Club that has the Letting, it is courtesy Ladies and Gentleman, the children get upset when Training is cancelled.

External Lettings, Members of The Chamber, we would like to propose that there is a complete overhaul of the way that these Pitches are not only allocated but actually maintained. We propose that there should be closer working practices put into place between the Department that maintains the Pitches and The Lettings Departments. Many times we have been allocated a Pitch that was quite simply not suitable to play on and we have had to then re-apply, could we not work together on this issue?

My Lord Mayor and Members of The Council, voluntary Clubs across the country and here in Leeds, play a significant role in providing cost effective and easily accessible, healthy positive activities for young people. We cater for boys and girls from the ages of 5 and up to the age of 17. As a nationally recognised Charter Standard Club, we are committed to achieving the highest standards for the children that come to our Club. In order for us and other Clubs to thrive, and continue to play a vital role in our communities, we need the support and assistance of the statutory bodies.

My Lord Mayor, Members Of Council. Thank You.

Mark Dilworth on behalf of Woodkirk Valley Football Club

Supporting Information

Alison Sherwood
Lettings Officer

Woodkirk Valley F.C.

Lettings Application Experience for Season 2008/2009

Applied for 5 lettings for age groups between U6 to U11 (2 of these were held in the previous season 2007/2008)

There were 2 further lettings for older squads which continued to be successful. The table below summarises the experience of the lettings officer for the younger age groups.

Item	Initial result	Comment	Final Result
Application 1 South Leeds High School	Successful	This is a letting we held last season.	Successful
Application 2 South Leeds High School	Unsuccessful	6-7pm slot for U7 squad. Even though had this letting in previous season we were allocated the 8-9 pm slot. Subsequently cancelled as too late for younger children. It was suggested that we apply for another letting at Rodillion High School but could not guarantee success. Not successful but due to late information all other possible lettings were taken.	Paying for facilities
Application 3 Woodkirk High School	Unsuccessful	Offered and accepted another letting. 8-9pm on a Friday used for U13 squad. U11 squad paying for facilities.	Successful / Paying for Facilities
Application 4 Morley High School	Unsuccessful	Offered an alternative by Education Leeds. Rodillion High School then changed mind and never confirmed letting. Were not informed until late September that this was the case making it difficult to obtain another letting.	Managed to get outdoor letting at Hugh Gaitskell
Application 5 Westerton Primary School	Unsuccessful	Offered and accepted another letting.	Successful