

Relocating the playground

Comments from 28 November public meeting and other responses

This note relates to the public meeting about “Relocating the Playground” which was held at 2.30pm on Sunday 28 November in the Public Hall. A 14-page briefing paper had been published on the town council’s web site more than a week before the meeting, and the meeting had been publicised on the local Facebook group and on roadside posters displayed in the town for a few days before the meeting.

About 60 members of the public attended the meeting. It was chaired and presented by Colin Bishopp, supported by Roger Slevin. Notes were taken by three people, and have been combined to create this document. Written responses received up to the published closing date of 2 December have been included.

The numbered points are those raised by participants in the meeting, or have been raised in correspondence. The sequence of the items within each section of this document is not significant.

The lettered points are the responses from Winslow Town Council (WTC) – either as given at the meeting (with some clarification in some cases) or added when this note was compiled.

Issues raised and questions asked

1. Why not locate community facilities on the Sports Hub
 - a. Buckinghamshire Council (BC) comment : there may be access issues and space issues, but it can be looked at. Sports Hub is only intended to replace Winslow Centre facilities.
2. Knock Public Hall down and use space for extra parking
 - a. Improvements to the Public Hall have already been commissioned and WTC is committed to deliver them over the next year.
3. Have you considered underground parking spaces?
 - a. Very expensive; ground conditions in Winslow are not good, with a very high water table.
4. How many parking spaces are required?
 - a. For the plans as described we believe about 50 spaces are necessary
 - b. If the sports element only were to be rebuilt then about 30 are probably required
5. Good to hear that proposals will not damage any of the mature trees
6. Concern to ensure that the playground is fenced
 - a. This will be considered at the detailed design; all six of the playgrounds visited in Milton Keynes do not have fencing
7. Good to see proposals for Sports Hub
8. What is the business case for the meeting rooms? What will charges be? Can the town afford them? These details are not in the report on the web site.
 - a. WTC is not a profit-making business. The capital cost of community facilities will be met by time-limited sums that are only available for sport and recreation projects, either from s106 contributions (from housing developers) or grants. Letting charges will have to cover the running costs of the rooms – essentially

heat, light, cleaning, maintenance, usually with volunteer effort. So charges can be and are much lower than a commercial business would charge.

9. What's the situation with the covenant on the playground land?
 - a. Advice has been given that this will not be an obstacle to moving the playground to a new site – meeting with representative of Fields in Trust scheduled for December
10. Pleased that there are plans for youth activities and facilities. Town needs a youth leader to take these forward.
11. Concern that all new buildings will address energy concerns
 - a. The Public Hall will have solar panels and battery storage
 - b. No decision yet about Social & Sports Pavilion – orientation not ideal for solar panels
 - c. EV charging will have to be provided in both the existing Public Hall and new Community & Sports Pavilion parking areas
12. Don't touch Tomkins Park!
13. Why does Winslow need two football pitches?
 - a. The one on the recreation ground is an FA standard pitch for Winslow United's use; the one proposed for the Sports Hub is a relocation of the one at the former Winslow Centre, and will be an all-weather pitch for community use – adult and junior teams
 - b. The rugby pitch is also a relocation from the Winslow Centre site – a grass pitch for community-based teams which could also accommodate junior football pitches if required
 - c. Sport England and planning legislation require existing sports facilities to be replaced if their existing sites are developed for other purposes
14. What consideration has been given to having a two-level car park somewhere suitable?

They can be quite inexpensive and you could crowd fund for the cost of building it.

 - a. The advice we have is that they would be quite expensive on a site in or adjacent to the town's Conservation Area, and the space required for ramps means they can only deliver significant additional spaces on sites much larger than those in the centre of Winslow
15. Why are school rooms not being used? Belief is that STFS current policy is just because of Covid – and they want to make rooms available.
 - a. School rooms are not normally available during the day, and incur costs for out of hours availability, reflected in the charges made for them
 - b. Combined School rooms generally not furnished suitably for adults
 - c. Issues of safeguarding, even for out of hours use
16. Why are there no indoor sports facilities proposed for the Sports Hub?
 - a. BC response that the Sports Hub is primarily about relocating what has previously existed at Winslow Centre. There is a function room proposed in the Club building on the Sports Hub – but more suited to yoga than active sports. Cost of a sprung floor sports hall was prohibitive
17. There are a lot of meeting rooms at the three schools, 28 High Street, etc – and these are not apparently being used – why not? Develop closer links with schools.
 - a. The availability of rooms is a matter for each organisation – over recent years (from before Covid) schools have not made rooms available routinely
 - b. 28 High Street only has one accessible meeting room – and Council has a policy for this to be available to community groups only when the office is not open. It

cannot charge and therefore use is limited to groups without funds which cannot find an alternative affordable venue in the town.

18. All for refurbishing the Sports Club (with 30 parking spaces on the practice area) but leave the playground alone – the existing playground is good for toddlers
 - a. Unclear how cars could access that area without going through the existing playground
 - b. WTC proposals for the replacement of the playground will use modern equipment that provides a much more creative play and learning experience
 - c. WTC will consult on the detail design aspects of a new playground
19. Section 106 (developer contributions) are sums of money that are paid by developers towards the provision of new sport and recreation facilities in the area. The funds are not normally allowed to be spent on the refurbishment or simple replacement of existing buildings. Each contribution has to be committed to one or more specific projects within a specified time period or those funds would be returned to the developer. Football club – existing sports club building dates from 1962 and is no longer fit for purpose, being much less good than many smaller local villages, such as Mursley. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for improvement. It's wrong to say that Tomkins Park is always a tranquil location – when local youths are there it is far from tranquil. Let's not miss out on this opportunity to improve the town.
20. Why can't new meeting rooms be included in the new Sports Hub development
 - a. WTC policy is for meeting spaces to be central to town to keep them as accessible as possible for everyone, and reduce need for car journeys
 - b. Sports Hub will be a Bucks Council managed facility, not WTC's – expect would be more expensive than community managed spaces
21. Have proposals been costed, and is there enough money available to pay for plan A?
 - a. WTC has been provided with indicative costs to allow early stage planning; more detailed costs would only ever be worked out when a proposal reaches detailed design. Anything more detailed now would be a costly expense that WTC would have to meet and cannot be justified.
 - b. WTC is confident that there will be sufficient s106 and other grant funding available to proceed with plan A if it is given the go ahead.
22. Challenge planning standards for parking – if the rooms will not be used at all times, then standards could be reduced? People should walk and not drive to functions.
 - a. Not every Winslow resident can walk even to facilities in central Winslow
 - b. Meetings and functions will often involve people travelling from a distance
 - c. Room use will be at any time of day or evening, so this cannot lead to reduced parking provision
 - d. WTC must be a responsible developer, and go beyond minimum standards to avoid parking overspilling onto local roads
23. Recreation ground and Tomkins Park are two distinct places
24. Arboretum is important for the whole community – none of it should be used for other purposes
 - a. The proposal seeks to ensure that the park is for all ages and providing play equipment goes a long way to ensuring that it is a family friendly space
25. Feeling that public is not being listened to – and there is a lack of creativity in the proposals. Presentation has come across as a very defensive statement

- a. This was not our intention – as we genuinely want new ideas; but most ideas put forward are those we have already spent time considering before arriving at the plan A proposals
26. Why not create parking spaces along Elmfields Gate or on the green space at Pumpus Green (like has been done somewhere in Stony Stratford)
 - a. Unlikely to gain support from residents of Pumpus Green or Elmfields Gate
 - b. The green areas in Elmfields estate have a protected planning designation that would preclude their use for parking
27. The need for more and better community facilities has been considered at length. There had been 5 years consideration of the plan for a Community Centre in Tomkins Park before it was realised that this would not be affordable (it would have cost well over £3.5m) – and now we have had a further 3 years detailed work to find what appears to be the only workable proposal to deliver what the people of Winslow asked for more than 10 yrs ago. We need to make decisions that will deliver progress rather than block proposals with no alternatives to put forward.
28. Important to realise what land WTC owns – as buying land in the town for anything would significantly increase costs – WTC only owns the Public Hall (managed by Trustees), the recreation ground (leased to and managed by the Sports Club) and Tomkins Park & Arboretum (managed by WTC), as well as its offices at 28 High Street. WTC does not have control of the former Winslow Centre site, nor the Rugby Field site, nor the site of the proposed Sports Hub – all of these are owned by Buckinghamshire Council.
29. Buckinghamshire Council's Sports Hub can offer synergies and complement Town Council proposals, but there are important differences in the way it is funded and how it will be managed – will work with TC to explore any possibilities that are put forward.
30. Impressed by the work and effort put in by WTC to improve facilities for the town. Relocation of the playground to Tomkins Park is a no brainer which will allow the construction of the new Community & Sports Pavilion for the benefit of the whole community. I am sure that Sir Edward Tomkins and his wife (former owners of Winslow Hall, to which the Tomkins Park site was attached) would not have objected to “their” park having children enjoying themselves in it.
31. I am writing to express my total outrage and disappointment at those of you in the council who apparently dislike or misunderstand children. Children under 8years will not be able to use the new park you are planning. Most of the children I see using the current park are 6 or under. They need age appropriate equipment and what you are planning is certainly not that. I could make all of the arguments as to why it is not necessary to replace the playground with a car park and give you alternative ideas but I know you have already heard and willfully ignored them. I hear that you have already made up your minds, but I want to make myself clear when I say that you are not doing the right thing by the families of the town you are supposed to represent. It is unfortunate that people haven't been showing up to tell you this at meetings, but the general feeling is that there is no point because you will do what you want anyway so they don't see the point in going, and clearly that is correct. You have clearly made a decision based on your own selfish interests and you should be ashamed of yourselves. People may not have shown up in person, but people have been vocal on the Facebook group that the majority don't want this and councillors have seen this. You know most people want to keep the park where it is. Your job is to fight for us, not disregard us, and if you're not willing to do that then you shouldn't be on the council.
 - a. Far from not liking or understanding children, most councillors have children and grand children, and understand their needs well.

- b. The equipment proposed for the playground will need, as now, to include age-appropriate for a wide age range – 0-12 or even 0-14 yrs old. It is evident to us that different age ranges use the playground at different times of day.
- 32. I don't understand that the idea of moving the croquet pitch to the arboretum would be difficult.
 - a. The existing croquet lawn is only half-size and the club would only consider moving if a full-sized lawn could be provided (preferably two lawns, each taking a rectangular site of 1000 sq m of level grass lawn). Even one such lawn would take up most of the central section of Tomkins Park.
 - b. The Croquet Club is part of the Sports Club and their lease runs until 2037.
 - c. Relocating the playground to the site of the current Croquet Lawn would still conflict with FA requirements for secure pitches when matches are played, and the site is well away from the town centre which is what is particularly attractive about the existing site or Tomkins Park.
- 33. We were really pleased when we heard that the WTC were holding this meeting. To us it meant we had a chance to give ideas and feedback the feeling of what this proposal meant to us. Unfortunately, the meeting was a joke from the start. It is clear WTC has made up its mind and seem very keen to appease Winslow football club, and happy to screw the rest of the town. Ask the football team to move to the new hub - they do not need to be central to the town. WTC own that land, they can do something about this without spoiling the arboretum - an area that we should be truly proud of. Shame on WTC for today. Shame you have wasted so many people's time when you have made this decision already.
 - a. The Sports Club lease on the recreation ground runs until 2037 and there is no break clause so any change would have to be mutually acceptable. The Club has indicated it is not prepared to move.
 - b. There is no site available in Winslow to establish a new FA-standard football pitch with club facilities – and no money available to buy and develop such a site even if one were available.
- 34. Is the green space on Fair Meadow off Elmfields Gate a possibility for the relocation of the playground? It's a large open space which is still close to the town centre.
 - a. Very unlikely to be acceptable to established residents in the area, so planning consent unlikely to be granted
- 35. Where is the exact location in the arboretum of the playground? Many of the trees are protected, and their roots will not be able to be disturbed. If this relocation goes ahead, which it looks as if it will, please can you have some parents representing 0-12 year olds, consulting you on the type of equipment you are proposing? Can you also confirm what ages they will be able to use the equipment up to? Can you confirm what the security will look like, as I hope this is part of the original business plan?
 - a. The precise location of the playground will only be decided as part of the detailed design, when WTC will engage a specialist play-space designer and constructor to advise on all aspects of the detail – protecting all established trees will be essential
 - b. WTC will ensure that there is consultation with a wide range of local residents (children, parents, grand-parents, carers and others) about the design of the playground and the type of equipment to be provided
 - c. One of the key concerns will be to ensure that the playground equipment is vandal-resistant. All of the examples of playgrounds in Milton Keynes were

unfenced and open 24/7 – yet did not appear to suffer from vandalism. Surely Winslow is not worse than Milton Keynes for such behaviour.

Other feedback received

36. The additional parking will also help alleviate many of the current parking pressures and assist in keeping our High Street alive.
37. Those who are prepared to support the installation of an unsightly car parking 'deck' (quite what that would do for the tranquility of the arboretum, I don't know) over the movement of some play equipment may have lost sight of the issues
38. Whenever there is any event in Winslow such as Farmers markets, Saturday football matches, Remembrance Sunday, the Hunt, Winslow Show the parking is absolutely diabolical. The town requires parking to keep the High Street alive!!
39. Town needs additional rooms for meetings. The town council has exhausted all avenues and options. The loss of the s106 funding would be an absolute injustice to the town if we do not use it to improve what is an unfit for purpose building at the sports and social club. I go to the surrounding villages and look in envy at their facilities and am quite ashamed of Winslow's lack of support for our own facilities. I would never expect the town council to finance the sports club building out of annual budgets. However s106 money lost would be unforgivable
40. I did not feel able to speak out yesterday due to the aggressive nature of some of the public opposing the move but wanted to say that we fully support the outline proposal. This is a much needed change for our town. Not only to allow for the development of the Sports Club but to allow for much needed additional parking. It is not only Winslow residents who require parking spaces but also people visiting our town to support local businesses and to attend doctors appointments, with many patients coming to Winslow from the surrounding villages. I also believe by adding additional parking spaces it will make Elmfields Gate a much safer road on Football and cricket match days where cars are parked along an already busy road.
41. The playground is in need of updating - I have found myself driving to the likes of Padbury and Oving parks to make use of play equipment that is similar to the examples you showed
42. Whilst the arboretum is a lovely place for quiet and reflection, I often walk through there during the day and also in the evenings and I do not see a lot of people utilising this space - its purpose was for a community centre to be built on it.
43. the sports club must have a much needed renovation and increase in size to be able to support the growth of its teams and accommodate their loyal supporters.
44. We support Relocating the Playground. Children would benefit from being surrounded by the lovely trees and learn about nature. They would see the Trees throughout the seasons. Think Sir Edward Tomkins would approve as it means all ages have the benefit of the Park. The Sports Club is in desperate need of expansion and modernisation. The Winslow Football Team are doing well in their League and hopefully will get promoted. If this happens they will need better facilities.
45. I support the relocation of the children's playground from the existing sports ground to the Tomkins Park.
46. My initial reaction was that it would be wrong to encroach on the space in TPA as it is valued by many residents, even though it has only been in place for a relatively short time. I now understand that there is no other viable site for the community centre apart from that

proposed, so the playground would have to be moved to make way for the required car parking spaces next to the (central) community centre. In turn, there is no other viable (central) site for the playground, other than TPA. As this is the only way for Winslow to benefit from both a playground and a new Community Centre then I agree with the proposed relocation, albeit with a slightly heavy heart.

47. I very strongly approve of moving the playground to Tomkins Park. We are NOT doing away with the playground, just merely moving it. I have 4 small boys who use the current park very much, but they would be overjoyed with a new one within Tomkins Park. Kids will be pleased with a new park, whatever their parents views are, and the town must progress with a new facility for the sports club for EVERYONE in Winslow and surrounding areas. The club has operated for many many years by volunteers, and many members and non members have put in personal money to improve the club over time, and to not go ahead with the moving of the playground would be a huge kick in the teeth to the many many people who have worked hard to keep the sports club as it is. It just really doesn't make sense to do nothing, moving the playground gives all the kids a lovely new area to play, while creating a brand new facility for the sports club for EVERYONE to use. I strongly feel that most of the objections are from people that have been in Winslow a fairly short time, and have no idea of what the sports club means to the town, this new facility will give us more room to make EVERYONE in the town welcome. Please don't miss this opportunity to give the town a new playground and a new Sports facility which EVERYONE can use.
48. I write as Chair of Winslow Croquet Club and hope that my comments will be considered. Our club has been active in Winslow for over 25 years and, although open to people of all ages, is one of the few sports clubs which attracts the more senior residents of the town, providing physical and mental activity in a social and competitive environment. The lawn is in the grounds of the sports club and players use the club house on a daily basis to support social play and competitive league play. We fully support WTC and WSSC in their efforts to update and expand these facilities to offer a wider range of activities in the centre of the town. The lawn and its store/seating area is fully financed and maintained by members and over the life of the club our accounts show that members have invested over £25,000 in its upkeep. Other than using some grants from WTC for improvements, the club runs at no cost to the town. I understand that one solution being proposed by people wishing to retain the play area on the sports field is to re-site it onto the area where the lawn is located and to move the lawn to Tomkins Park. We do not believe that this is feasible. The cost of creating a lawn from scratch is in excess of £30,000 and would need changing, kitchen and toilet facilities plus a storage and seating to be built which are the minimum requirements of the Croquet Association for a club to compete in the formal competitions which are a core element of club activity. I doubt planning consent would be forthcoming for this. I assume there is a view that any old bit of grass to knock a croquet ball around would suffice. I hope my submission corrects this view.
49. Please note my support for the playground to be re-located.
50. I attended the meeting regarding the proposed moving of the children's playground on Sunday 28th November. I was surprised at the selfish attitude of some of those attending who were opposed to this happening. I use the playground on a regular basis for my young granddaughter and would welcome a new modern playpark being built in the new location. The thought that in years to come we didn't take this opportunity to modernise the hall and sports club is unthinkable. I have been a player, manager and coach for the football club since coming over in 1978 also playing for the cricket team. Modern sport with the encouragement for more young people and females need to be catered for and the present

facilities do not offer this. We cannot as a growing town leave things as they are as I believe this would be a negligence of duty and hopefully the decision to go ahead with the plans is approved.

51. As the current Chairman of the Winslow Sports and Social club and 14 year Winslow resident, unfortunately I was unable to attend the most recent public consultation regarding the proposed relocation of the children's play area from its existing site to The Arboretum. However, I would like to offer up my support. Always our intention in partnering with WTC regarding the existing building and grounds that we hold under tenancy, was to create improved community facilities for Winslow and surrounding areas that we, as a voluntary combined committee of social and sports club members, would be happy to continue tenancy and manage on behalf of WTC and the community. Whilst there would be benefits for all sports clubs associated, with a larger and improved building with extended parking facilities, our desire has only ever been to ensure the continuation of our 200+ member social club and sports teams allowing us to play at the highest possible level within the constraints of the available facilities. Always, both the club and the grounds have been available for public use and will continue to be so, with the proviso that certain areas of the facilities are protected to ensure the significant investment these clubs make to maintain the best possible playing surfaces remain unaffected. With average crowds at the football now regularly over 100+ and with local derbies such as the match on the 28th December against Buckingham likely to draw 250+, existing parking without any new plan is inadequate and must severely annoy local residents, so creating extra parking spaces through relocation of play area and re-allocation of our training pitch/warm up area seems the most viable solution.
52. I am in full support of the proposed plans in relation to the re-siting of the current playground and new building to replace the existing Sports and Social Club. The existing building is in a state of increasing dilapidation. It was built in 1961 or 62 and not to an especially high standard with the changing rooms being added in the early 1980s when clubs were only permitted to have one substitute. The facilities are inadequate and outdated. We also only have only one Referee changing room and with the welcome use of female officials this is no longer adequate. I understand the requirement for increased parking that a new building would require and whilst it is regrettable that the existing playground would have to move to the proposed site within the arboretum this would at least provide an opportunity for new equipment that could be more friendly to those with disabilities. The additional parking would help the traders of our High Street too as I have recently experienced difficulty in parking when looking to shop in the town. It is a potentially once in a generation opportunity, where the stars of funding and the will to do it, align to enable this kind of project to happen and would assist in bringing the facilities that Winslow has into the 21st century. The children of Winslow are extremely well catered for with 2 playing areas on the Glade and a skate park proposed for the new Sports Hub on Buckingham Road and the playground isn't being taken away from them, merely moved. How disappointing would it be to miss out on such a unique opportunity to replace the existing buildings with something new, just to maintain the existing status quo?
53. I support the moving of the children's play area to Tomkins Park as this will then allow for the extra much needed car parking spaces. It will also allow for the redevelopment of the Sports Club into a facility that can be used by all Winslow residents.
54. I support moving the children's playground from its present location to the proposed site in Tomkins Park. As a resident of Winslow for nearly forty years I have brought up my own children and am now happily involved in my grandchildren's lives within the town. I firmly

believe the relocation is a good thing for a number of reasons:

The new site with upgraded equipment is a perfect fit within Tomkins Park. It will enable more parking within easy reach of the local shops. It will help local businesses within Winslow. The upgrading of the sports facilities within Winslow is long overdue. Many people, myself included, have given up their time and money willingly over a number of years to facilitate sport within the town. An upgraded building will also be more disabled friendly which is relevant to me as I now struggle to get in and out of the present clubhouse and I am not alone in this respect. It is vital that sport continues within the town centre as many of these types of facilities are disappearing from easily accessible locations all over the country. Towns need to adapt to ever increasing pressure from new builds and I see the plans as a move to improve the lives of this growing population. Some people are always averse to change as they look at it from only their own perspective and not for future generations.

55. I fully support the plans to redevelop the sports and social club. Our family have been members for 10 years and it has been an integral part of us feeling welcomed into the community. My daughter has okayed for the Football team, I have played cricket for the Town, I played for and captained the Pool team and we regularly use the club for socialising. The building needs significant redevelopment to support the clubs and members. This has my full support.
56. I support the outline proposal for the move of the current children's playground to Tomkins Park. As a frequent visitor to Winslow I can see the need for additional parking spaces to accommodate the increasing number of people visiting the town. I also reject any ideas put forward relating to the erection of a multi storey car park or moving the proposed new car park to other green spaces in Winslow. Having used the current playground I fully support the move of it into Tomkins Park, not only because it will provide the much needed upgrade to the current play equipment but will also place the playground in a natural setting of the Arboretum which should be used for people of all ages. I am also in support of the move of the playground to enable additional parking to support the extension and redevelopment of the Sports Club. Having frequented the club on many occasions for both social and sporting events I can absolutely see the need for a larger space but also the building is in desperate need of updating and renovation. I understand the importance of extending the club to support Winslow United FC and allow them to continue playing at the highest level, which also provides an opportunity for the town's youth to progress in years to come. The football team and cricket team are well supported and improvements to the club will allow for more people to come to the town to support the clubs. In summary, I fully support the move of the playground to Tomkins Park for the reasons listed above and think it would be a real shame to let pass this opportunity to improve facilities for the town.
57. Looking at all angles of the proposed plans I would be in agreement with moving the playground into Tomkins Park. I think this would become a lovely area for families to go & enjoy linking them both together. Learning that Tomkins Park was bought for future planning in mind & has no historical purpose really did help make up my mind. Personally I do see problems with parking in & around the town which does concern me for the safety for us all, so I do think adding additional parking for the sporting grounds would help to relieve this problem. The building of stacked or underground parking facilities I would not personally be in favour of & think it would be overkill, costly & aesthetically not very pleasing. I certainly did take on board the difficulties of trying to please everyone making sure that we are doing the right thing for all areas of the proposal & understand that it's

taken 3 years to put together. With that, I can't thank you all enough for all the hard work that you have put into these plans, for us all to hopefully enjoy in the future.

58. I am writing to register my support of the council's excellent plan. While I am no longer a resident I grew up in Winslow, represented the town's football team and have raised a lot of funds through events held at the sports ground. Many of the fields I played in as a child are now housing estates which, while I am sad to see, I understand it's necessary and helps the town grow and thrive. The Tomkins Park site was always a totally under-utilised site in my childhood, it's an excellent location for a park, beautiful surroundings in the town centre and safe, a spot to picnic and watch the kids and grandkids play. The idea to create more parking will be a boost to the high street and local economy. I am currently fighting the taking of parking away in the local area where I now live because it will almost certainly kill off many small wonderful independent businesses. The plan is clear, excellent and clearly beneficial to the town and the majority of residents. The sports facility which I personally hold dear is in desperate need of upgrading, hundreds of people use it every week, we have successful senior and junior teams which put the town on the map locally and nationally. Our youth team having great runs in the FA Cup and our senior teams first appearance receiving coverage on the BBC and lots of local radio. Over many years I and countless others have put in uncountable hours and money to support the facility and improve it. The opportunity to get funds to bring this up to a standard more befitting the town and clubs' status is one that should not be missed. My father has recently become disabled and he has dedicated untold time and money to the sports in the town and is unable to properly enjoy the facilities at present, which has shown that is the case for any disabled persons, this is something that must be addressed. I hold the town and the sports facility very close to my heart and have brought celebrity and ex pro football teams to raise funds and attracted attendances in the multiple thousands, it would be fantastic to have a facility worthy of future events.
59. As a supporter of Winslow football club for over 3 generations I fully support the proposed plan to move the children's play area to Tomkins Park for the following reasons : The use of this area would allow more off road car parking; The much used sports facility could then be improved to benefit the whole town; The football club with its many senior and junior teams remains central to the town; Also what nicer place for a children's play area than Tomkins Park where families can meet and enjoy picnics etc.
60. I am writing to you to register my support for the relocation of the children's playground from its present location to the proposed site in Tomkins Park. I have been a resident of Winslow for 38 years and brought up both my sons here. They now have children of their own and I am very involved in their lives and they love the children's playground and I am sure will be very happy to go to the playground at its new site. I strongly support the relocation as I believe it is a good thing for the town and its residents and the playground being within Tomkins Park makes good sense. In addition it will enable more parking for the town which means the shops will be within easy reach and this will help local businesses, the upgrading of the sports facilities will be fantastic and long overdue. Like many local people I have had strong ties to the sports club serving in the past as Treasurer, working behind the bar on occasions and even cleaning the dressing rooms after a football match! I believe it is vital for the sports club which is a fantastic servant to the town and which supports youth and adults in enjoying competitive sport at a high level. In the past the football club hosted a Tottenham Hotspur team and a Celebrity team raising funds for the club and bringing attention to the Town. I fully and strongly support the proposal to relocate the playground as I strongly believe the changes it will support will bring benefit to the town and its residents in many ways.

61. I wholeheartedly agree with this move, a new upgraded play area is long overdue. Tomkins Park is a lovely setting for the children (AKA future residents) of Winslow. Given the town expansion the new parking will be welcome and take some vehicles off the street, this current practice blocks the road into and out of Elmfields Gate especially at school drop off and pick up times! The much needed work on the sports club building will bring benefits to the townspeople and the sporting fraternities.
62. I am writing to you today to register my support of the relocation of the Childrens playground within the grounds of Tomkins Park. I was born and raised in Winslow and both my parents still live in Winslow. I also have 2 children of my own who attend various classes within Winslow and I also take them to the Sports Club and the Childrens Playground every weekend. They love both the Sports Club and the playground, however I do believe that moving the playground would make complete sense and would allow for a bigger car park which is a serious issue when attending the Park. I would hope that included in the car park would be Child and Parent bays which would make my visits a lot easier. I strongly support the relocation of the Childrens playground to Tomkins park and believe that this would be of benefit to the whole town and to future generations. In addition I am an avid Winslow United Football Club supporter and have been involved with the club since the day I was born. I still regularly drive over from Stony Stratford with my Children to watch the Football. My Dad, Uncles, Brother have all represented the club in many ways be it Manager, Player, Committee member. I have also served time on the Committee. I believe that the creation of a new car park, redeveloped club house, and relocation of the playground will be of huge benefit to the town and I strongly support the proposed works. To not go ahead with this will have a massive detrimental impact not only on the present generation but for the future generations.
63. I have spoken with several people who were there. I believe you reiterated what has already been said. But unfortunately, I feel those who don't agree do not hear anything that does not follow their views. So I wish to write this letter in support of the proposal of moving the playground and improving the Sports club / community building. With my views on why it should go ahead. The sports club building, though it has been maintained by volunteers for a long time, has had so many bits stuck on it and half fixes to try to keep it up to regulations that it really needs a total revamp and rethink. To make it greener, have disabled access, female changing rooms for officials and all things that a modern facility would provide. At the same time a town consultation was taken, which took nearly two years, and I was part of. This gave the people in the town a say in what they would like. The gist of this was that they wanted another facility, not a big one that would get booked every weekend by one group. But several venues and more places to meet and run their activities. The Winslow running club currently use the carpark to change in. With the new layout they could use the changing rooms at the new clubhouse as there would be access at night and early morning. To name one specific request. As you are aware to do this the current planning laws do not allow this to be done without the provision of parking facility. So football realise a compromise was needed. by relocating the playground and using the training area this could achieve both. I believe this is the best opportunity and most balanced outcome that the town council has worked hard to achieve. It is very difficult to please everyone. The objections are that the Tomkins Park is not to be built on. That's what it was bought for. It tends to be mainly used as a cut through to the town and youngsters to use for drugs after dark I'm afraid. A new and better play area will make it a much used and friendly place. The town needs more car parking as the current car parks are already full of residents' parking from the high street. (I would make any new one a pay after 12 midnight so only used for

the shops, playing fields, chemist etc.) I'm not sure what the others that are being very vocal about as some would like green space for kids to play, others want an area to walk dogs. Their use of dogs where kids play is not encouraged as dog faeces even if picked up still leave a potential for a parasite (roundworm) that can blind children. So for insurance most councils say no dog walking. So they want two different things. I am in full agreement that we need more green space. We have 200 children playing for Winslow traveling to Gawcot. But there is none to buy so that is not the council's fault. They need to look to BucksC and their own developers who built with not enough provision. I have property on Winslow grange and family live on there so not everyone on the Grange agrees with them, as they would have you believe. When looking at the plans for the new sports hub and the development of the old school. They will be closer to more green space than the rest of the town. When the new footbridge comes, and the railway line finished there is more dog walking right by them. The whole of the countryside. I believe the most noise they are making is because they want more green space so are using carparking to highlight their cause. We all would not have a car park, keep the training area, have a playground in both parks - but it's not our choice, it's the planning laws. One final point. If we lose the money set aside for Winslow in its s106 developers agreements, this would be more of a concern to the rest of Winslow.

64. As a resident of Winslow, a keen supporter of the Sports & Social Club and a Winslow Football Club sponsor, I felt I had to write to let you know my comments and concerns in the hope that they will be listened to, along with a lot of other like-minded people. I appreciate it must be difficult to please everyone in this situation, but we have to look at the town as a whole and what is best for the whole community going forward. Parking in and around Winslow is shocking to say the least. Parking in the town and at the public hall specifically, for whatever the reason, karate, dancing, vaccinations, farmers markets, remembrance Sunday, the hunt, football, local elections, is in very short supply. The Market Square parking is not sufficient and traffic build up down the high street with large lorries squeezing through makes oncoming vehicles mount the kerb (not safe!) as the parking is not wide enough (or people's parking isn't good enough). Now that the Bell has installed parking barriers, this has now compounded the problem. I can understand why Phillip Menday went to great expense to put these in, as people use his parking facilities to use the shops in the high street and not the hotel etc. We have to have enough parking available to residents, passers-by, business owners etc to keep the shops and thriving business in business. It has been hard enough for them over the past 18 months with covid, as it has been for the Sports & Social Club. The town needs parking and meeting spaces. It also needs to use what it has to keep the town alive. The loss of the s106 funding would be an injustice to the town if we do not use it to improve what is an unfit for purpose building at the sports and social club. You really should get down to a game and see the youngster improving week in, week out. Visiting other towns and villages for business, football and social activities, I am amazed at how they have the facilities they do whilst we as a growing town are seriously lacking and in some cases disrepair. We need to use funding and investment at making the town stronger and better and become the envy of others. Rather than us look at others that way. We have to support our own town and the loss of the s106 money would be unforgiveable and a sign of how badly the council is run. We do not expect the council to fund the sports and social club out of annual budgets but help should be provided where it can. We need to use the funding rather than lose it.
65. I would like to register my support for the Relocation of the Playground into Tomkins Park. In my opinion it is the obvious choice with the carpark attached so there is no road to cross

when arriving by car (to me defeats the object anyway!) and the Toilets, which are of an acceptable standard, are close by in the car park. I have been involved in the Sports Club for many years and think the Town deserves a decent, more appropriate, building as a home for the Football, Cricket and Croquet Clubs. There are also Darts Clubs and I believe a Pool team. This town is not all about children, these children grow up and become young teens who will be looking for other activities.

66. I write to confirm my support and approval of the changes proposed for the sports club development and parking, moving the playground to Tomkins Park. The surroundings for the park should not in any way detract from its current offering. In fact the area provides a greener and more appealing outlook for all using the facility. The sports club expansion and development will greatly benefit all teams and the town, providing the much needed improved hospitality and changing facilities. The additional parking will ease the on road parking on the main road.
67. I am writing in support of the relocation of the children's playground from Elmfields Gate to Tomkins Park. I believe the overall benefit to our community is significant and by replacing the playground there is no material detriment. A town of this size needs a Community and Sports Pavilion that is fit for purpose. The town continues to expand and the needs/ demands will simply increase. Moving the playground will help achieve this. It will also alleviate the on-road parking issues that sometime occur. This is a real opportunity to improve the community and its infrastructure.
68. You have my full support for the development and expansion of Winslow Sports Club. This development is vital to the town and community both for sporting and social events and will continue to be a real hub for families.
69. I wanted to put some thoughts together as to why, as a football club, there is a need for the Towns Council proposal to be accepted. As a football club we have been at this location for a number of years investing a lot of our own money into the playing facilities. As a FA Chartered club and with over 300 junior players we have spent a considerable amount of time creating a pathway to ensure that talented players have the opportunity to make it to the senior team. This is proven with an Under 18 side that have made the 1st round proper of the FA Youth Cup for the second season running playing against professional academies. This season finally we have been able to give a number of players who have come through that pathway their debuts. Results this season have been the best they have been for a number of years and there is a strong possibility that we could obtain promotion. At the moment we just pass the FA's Grading to allow us to play at this level but will still have to invest more money into the ground. With the football that is being played and the results we have seen an increase in the crowds we are attracting on a Saturday, averaging over 100 per game. This is not only causing the obvious parking issues but we are struggling to accommodate spectators in the clubhouse at half time and after the game. We are also unable to provide the after-match hospitality that we are required to under the league rules. So without an improvement in facilities we could be unable to give the town a football club to be proud of.
70. We support the Sports & Social club being replaced with a new building and the children's play area being relocated for additional parking.
71. I am in favour of the proposed new Winslow Sports club building and playground move. A new playground with new equipment will be welcome while an improved sports club will also benefit the town.
72. I would like to express my support for relocating the children's playground to a site within Tomkins Park & Arboretum and a replacement Sports Club building to be built to enhance

the town's facilities for mainstream sports, such as football and cricket for current and future generations. This will retain recreational activities in the heart of the town, allowing both spectators and players to continue to enjoy quintessential national sports and continue to retain the characteristics of a traditional market town. This will provide centrally located facilities for people to meet and enjoy outdoor activities at the heart of the community. It will allow existing facilities to be enhanced and provide services for a wider group of residents with the addition of a community hall. The relocation of the children's playground will allow for a sympathetic playground to be built in the heart of town, whilst providing a modern and stimulating playground for younger generations providing facilities for an increasing number of younger residents. In summary, I'm in support for the relocation of the playground and for a new Sports Club to be built on the existing site and for football and cricket to be retained within the heart of community.

73. I would like to lend my support to the plan to relocate the playground to TPA and to rebuild the Winslow Sports Club.
74. I would like to add my support to the relocation of the current children's playground to the TPA, as detailed in the document titled 'Relocating the playground'. I understand the concerns, particularly around the size of the new playground, but I believe that the pros (of the entire 2 phase plan) outweigh the cons, and if the playground relocation is what's required to make both phases happen then I am in support of it. I would urge the council however to do all it can to ensure that the new playground (if this goes ahead) is suitably sized and equipped to address as many of the concerns as possible (I say this as both a parent, and as a supporter of the proposed plan).
75. I just wanted to say I am in favour of your plan to move the playground into Tomkins Park. This gives the children a wonderful opportunity to play in a lovely safe setting and learn more about nature. I am also in favour of expanding the sports facilities at both the football/cricket club but also on the edge of town. With a growing community, it is important that there are many different opportunities to not only play sport but also support it. I understand the need for extra parking and think what you are planning is the best solution for all.
76. Having read the Note on relocating the playground which is on the Winslow Town Council website, I do feel that I should write to express my deep unease with this proposal. Whilst I can see there is a case for utilising the Council's assets to solve a problem that it perceives must be solved immediately to avoid various other unwelcome complications, this proposal strikes me as short-term pragmatism to reach a decision at all costs – as though it is better to risk making a bad decision than no decision. Not that is necessarily the case that providing a children's playground in the Tomkins Park and Arboretum (TPA) is a thoroughly bad idea. Carefully designed, conceived with natural materials and causing no lasting irreparable damage to the trees or natural habitat, it could be an improvement on the playground's present location without being of enormous detriment to the TP and the visitors who appreciate its present relative tranquillity. My unease is partly selfish because I appreciate the benefits of the TPA as it is and welcome the steps the Council has taken to enhance it so far. Now, in my late seventies I realise that I shall not be around much longer and the opinions of younger generations are much more relevant. This thought did however leave me posing the what if? question. For example. What if the TPA was owned and managed not by WTC but by an independent trust run by independent trustees? How would they react to having the playground foisted on them? What questions would they ask as to why this was being allowed to happen? Would they be satisfied that WTC had really explored every avenue open to them and finally reached the only possible solution to its

problems? Would such trustees then accept the imposition of the playground with good grace? These are the questions that the Council must ask itself not just because these are the questions that future councillors will be wanting to ask them but because the present councillors are themselves today's trustees of the TPA.

77. I would like to thank Winslow Town council for taking the time on Sunday to run through the history of the various steering groups and WTC sub groups that has resulted in the current proposal for not only moving the children's playground into Tomkins park but also making much needed improvements to the Sports Club. I do not believe the changes can be judged individually but have to be viewed as an interlinked package - without this open mindedness we simply stand still and will never achieve any improvements for the town. Unfortunately I believe that some attendees of the meeting did not fully understand the background or appreciate the amount of work already put in by the steering group (4 years ago) and the amount of research that has been undertaken by WTC to get to this point, nor did they appear to understand the difference in remit of WTC and BC as several attendees repeatedly mixed up the responsibilities of both, despite explanation from WTC and BC representatives. Having attended several WTC monthly meetings and this public meeting a general trend seems to be emerging with the same people using every meeting as an opportunity to challenge WTC regarding matters that are impossible to deal with given they fall within BC remit. Both the tone and the behaviour of certain individuals was quite unacceptable and downright rude - being passionate about a topic does not mean it is right to cuss and swear, in fact it is most disrespectful to all others attending. I want to express my support for the outline proposal to relocate the playground into Tomkins park - it being one of the proposals from the original steering group which I fully supported. This area is not only for those who appreciate the trees and want to protect them, it is a place for all Winslow folk and as such our children would benefit from use of the area. I cannot imagine a more pleasant place for the future residents of our town to play especially within a new purpose built playground which could offer the traditional aspects such as swings and slides alongside a more modern climbing area, satisfying both the infant population and older children's needs. It is a shame that some attendees of Sunday's meeting didn't give more input as to what they think should be in a new play area, I think they are missing the point. The play area can be accommodated without disturbing the trees or spoiling the park. Moving the play area to a nicer improved site along with the utilisation of the training area within the main recreation ground will free up space to give the town much needed additional parking. As our town grows and new estates are built further out on the town perimeter there is a growing need for more parking, not everyone can walk into town especially if they need to make daily school and shopping runs, plus elderly/physically challenged residents have to be considered. Parking is also required to meet the needs of those in the surrounding villages who come into town to shop and support our local businesses, attend medical appointments etc. it will take parking off the road at both schoolday drop-off and pick-up times and Football and Cricket match days, making the road much safer. These changes - car park area and use of the training ground for expansion - will support the much needed refurbishment and upgrading of the Sports Club which is required to meet the growing needs of an expanding town. Listening to some of the comments raised at Sunday's meeting I believe some residents of Winslow may not understand the Sports Club is run entirely on a volunteer basis, covering many roles which could be a financial cost to the town if they were not carried out by volunteers. Many of the club supporters often finance repairs and improvements to the building themselves to keep the club running. By giving their time freely they give a benefit to the town! allowing football and cricket to continue to be played

at the level they are currently at - they have been incredibly successful over the past years and this should be celebrated and embraced by the townsfolk. The effort put in by these volunteers allows both current and future generations of Winslow to have the opportunity to play through the junior, youth, and senior teams for Winslow United Football or Winslow Town Cricket now and in years to come; in order to keep this level of support the building requires much needed renovation and an increase in size to be able to sustain both the growth of the Sports and accommodate supporters. Tomkins Park is a lovely place, it is quiet and peaceful during the day but does not appear to be used to its fullest extent, I believe the move of the play area will promote family use and in turn make it a nicer place both during the days and evenings. In summary, I completely agree with the outline proposal and thank you for your time and effort to date.