

PRESS RELEASE FROM HAMPTON WICK AND TEDDINGTON LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020

**UDNEY PARK: LIB DEMS TELL QUANTUM TO ‘SHAPE UP OR SHIP OUT’**

Lib Dem Councillors in Hampton Wick and Teddington have written to Quantum, owner of Udney Park Playing Fields, calling for responsible stewardship of this important local green space.

Councillor Robin Brown said ‘We are concerned by reports that local sports clubs are not being given the opportunity to use the playing fields. We are also disappointed to see the condition of the fields deteriorating.’

Udney Park Playing Fields were originally donated to an educational college for amateur sports use, as a memorial after the First World War. Earlier this year a proposal to build on the playing fields was thrown out by a planning inspector after an appeal enquiry.

Councillor Martin Elengorn said ‘Quantum’s purchase of the playing fields for development was ill-advised given that the plans were in clear conflict with planning policies. These playing fields are designated as Local Green Space which provides important protection.’

Councillor Jim Millard said ‘Green spaces are so important in an urban environment. As well as the amenity value for local residents they are a haven for wildlife as was highlighted at the planning enquiry’.

The future of the playing fields is now uncertain. Local residents are concerned that without regular approved sports use and maintenance the pitches and the boundary fencing will degrade further. It is understood that there is local interest in buying the site and running it for community benefit, but not at the inflated price paid by Quantum.

Councillor Richard Baker said ‘If Quantum can’t manage this site sensitively then they should sell to someone who can. We will campaign for these playing fields to be used as intended and as protected by council planning policies.’

A copy of the Councillors’ letter is attached.

ENDS