

**Appendix B**

**Cllr Colonel T Scriven, Re: Planning Application Number 06/88549**

I am aware of just how important sport and in particular Rugby can be to young people. Certainly because I was quite good at the sport it certainly helped my advancement both at school and in my early career in the army. I am very conscious of the need to provide good facilities for Ringwood Junior School and indeed for the Infant School.

I am aware from reading the various papers and from going on the web just how much Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club have done and are doing in promoting Rugby amongst our children in the town and surrounding area, and they should be congratulated, and as a town councillor I am aware of just how much effort Town Councillors and Officers of the council are putting into improving facilities.

I have a copy of the report made by the Ringwood Junior School and Ellingham Rugby Club reference the public consultation, which was attended by 40 residents (I do not have details of who they were) There are a number of significant factors which range from traffic congestion, social implications, noise, high netting, and many other areas at the best all that is offered for many is a minimisation of the problems.

I am also aware of the very limited number of residents who appear to have been consulted in respect of this project. Despite what appears to be clear requirement from the council on this matter.

I have copies of letters that have been received by the council this year from residents in protest at the planned development (Some who did not receive the initial consultation letter). These do not seem to have been consolidated and circulated to members of the council.

I also have copies of the minutes of council and committee meetings which have looked at this plan already and in particular the minutes of a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> July which gave reasons for the development being rejected and then seven days later after a minute stating that the project would be looked at again and the later development on full consultation with residents and of course implied from that was the reaction.

I have to say, taking into account the council minutes on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, the comments made by residents at the open meeting in November. The comments made by a significant number of residents by letter this year, the limited 'full consultation' and the fact that as a council and on behalf of the community we are looking at a centre of excellence for sporting facilities (But also not loosing sight of the fact that not all kids will not be able to travel) and the fact that a short time of enjoyment for some will appear to have a long term reduction in quality of life for many residents I feel I am unable to support this application.

I would also wish to use the minutes of this meeting to record that I think the whole process may not have been handled as well as could have been and has caused two years of anxiety for many residents and possibly false expectations for the rugby club and school. Indeed I would go further and request that consideration be given to holding an inquiry to determine how £185.000 from the development fund was allocated to this project prior to all the current facts not having been considered first.

I would hope, that should this planning application not be supported by the town council committee today that the town council will undertake, in consultation with Hampshire County Council, to resolve the issues that clearly exist for the Junior and Infant School as speedily as possible and that support is provided to Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club in their good work with the youngsters who are taking up Rugby and assistance to encapsulate the Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club in the planned Ringwood Centre of sporting excellence in due course.