



## *Rushmoor Indoor Bowling Club*

*Farnborough Leisure Centre, Westmead, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7LD  
Founded 1976*

Correspondence and contact to:-  
Mr. D. Newman, Secretary, Rushmoor Indoor Bowls Club,  
19 Nash Close, Cove. Farnborough, Hants. GU14 0HL

Mr. Peter Amies  
Head of Community and Environmental Services.  
Rushmoor Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Farnborough Road  
Farnborough  
Hants. GU14 7JU

7th May 2018

Dear Sir,

RE: OPTIONS FOR FARNBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE  
AS PART OF THE CIVIC QUARTER PROPOSALS

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I write on behalf of Rushmoor Indoor Bowling Club, which is affiliated to Hampshire Indoor Bowling Association. I refer to the article on the front page of the Farnborough News and Mail dated Wednesday, 4th April, 2018.

Rushmoor Indoor Bowling Club (RIBC) has used the Bowls Hall at Farnborough Leisure Centre for over thirty years and letter heading shows it was established in 1976. Membership is currently 355 all of whom take part in league games (Monday - Friday, morning, afternoon and evening), club and regional competitions and friendlies (weekends).

Coaching is also given to people wishing to join RIBC free of charge. Memberships and match costs are kept as low as possible but are totally dependent on costs imposed by the Leisure Centre management company.

As a bowling club RIBC happily welcomes people from the age of 10 years and of all cultures. In the past RIBC assisted and coached members of Rushmoor Mallards Disabled Sports Club and are happy to welcome disabled people as members of RIBC. To facilitate this the Leisure Centre Management Company have provided a wheelchair for specific use on the Bowls Green for wheelchair disabled people. RIBC can provide coaching if required and members are always willing to help.

Local U3A groups also use the Bowls Hall at lunchtimes and late afternoons as do other individuals and groups. Thus the Bowls Hall is in full use Monday – Sunday



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I note from the article that you say that one option could be to build on the current site.

"This could be done by keeping the swimming pool and gym open while the rest of the centre is demolished to enable a new leisure centre to be built in its place. Once the new centre is opened, containing a new gym and swimming pool, the old swimming pool and gym would be demolished and a multi storey car park built."

There is no mention of an Indoor Bowls Hall being incorporated into the new Leisure Centre.

Can you please confirm that if this is case a separate Indoor Bowls Facility will be provided within the immediate locality for use by members of RIBC and other persons who want to Bowl at an indoor facility if and when the use of the Indoor Bowls Hall at Farnborough Leisure Centre ceases.

If Rushmoor Borough Council does not provide an alternative Indoor Bowling Centre then the nearest Hampshire Affiliated Bowling Club is at Chawton Park, Alton which will be far too far to go for most members of RIBC who rely on lifts or public transport in the local area to get to Farnborough Leisure Centre. When members travel to 'away' matches then lifts are given to those members relying on public transport to ensure that they are not excluded from participating in the 'away' match. Even with the kindness and good nature of members of RIBC it is unlikely this could happen on a daily basis.

It is important to mention here that RIBC provides a place where people can undertake exercise, enjoy friendship by making new friends, catching up with old friends and having a support network when life is a bit difficult. This means that people have somewhere to go something to do and are not sitting at home falling into a pit of depression and loneliness. If there is no facility for Indoor Bowling in Farnborough then this could have serious detrimental effect on the lives of a lot of people who may end up being an increased cost on the already overwhelming social care system. The costs of providing an Indoor Bowls facility could be found from the Community and Environmental Services budget, thus not impacting on the already severely stretched Social Care budget.

Alternatively, if the Farnborough Leisure Centre is to be demolished together with other buildings in the locality to facilitate the building of 700 plus houses/commercial use properties then the costs of a new Indoor Bowling Facility could be funded from monies received from a Developer pursuant to a Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act Agreement 1990 and/or from a Community Infrastructure Levy thus ensuring no cost to Rushmoor Borough Council.

Can you please confirm:

1. the number of applicants to take over the management of the Leisure Centre once the current contract expires.
2. If any formal and/or informal talks/discussions/negotiations with any third parties have taken place with regard to the future of Farnborough Leisure Centre as part of the civic quarter proposals and if so can you please provide full details thereof.
3. Can you please let me have a copy of the Civic Quarter Proposals together with a copy of plans relating thereto.



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I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

.....  
Mr. D.Newman, Secretary  
for and on behalf of  
Rushmoor Indoor Bowling Club

Received and Signed by.....

Print name.....

For and on behalf of Rushmoor Borough Council

This.....day of May 2018.