

Reference: Planning Meeting Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May

Sadly, I am not able to attend in person as I would have requested speaking during the public participation session. I hope this short message will suffice instead.

As President of the Sports Federation of Ledbury (and an erstwhile member of the Sports Council of England), I wish to make the following observations:

1. It is a sad fact that, even with the current population of Ledbury, we are woefully short of the target figure for sports provision as designated by Sport England. We do our young no favours....
2. If over 600 homes are built without any new sports facilities our young (and not so young) will suffer and the 'knock on effect' could be serious and expensive.
3. The provision of a new Primary School, I gather, may not proceed and therefore that land could be designated as recreation land and used in some way to enhance sports provision.
4. Including sports facilities would help the development to become part of the existing town, by encouraging residents from the rest of Ledbury to visit the area for recreational purposes.

The Federation appointed a small group last year to study the problem of sports provision for soccer, rugby and cricket and they have met with the National Governing Bodies of the three sports, and with Sport England, identifying the present shortfall of pitches for these sports alone. To meet current and future deficiencies 7.5 acres of land is required close to the existing sites, but that does nothing to meet requirements of any other sport. For example, Ledbury is one of comparatively few towns that does not organise a Saturday Park Run for all ages.

24<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

*Ian Beer*