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27 January 2025

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** on Monday 27 January 2025 at 6.00 pm, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

11 **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALL FACILITIES AT TIDES ON CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS** (Pages 2 - 4)

To receive the views of clubs and organisations that would be impacted by the proposed temporary closure of all facilities at Tides for nine months from 1 April 2025 if decision CAB74 were to be implemented.

This agenda item has been added by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor T J Bartlett.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicky", written over a white background.

Chief Executive

Football Fun Factory

Dear Councillor Daniel Friend and the Conservative Group at Dover District Council,

I am writing as a passionate user of Tides Leisure Centre, and I wanted to personally thank you for your ongoing efforts to protect this vital community resource. However, I want to highlight the significant impact that closing the sports hall before its refurbishment would have on the many individuals, clubs, and families that rely on this safe and inclusive space.

As someone who hires the sports hall three times a week for the Football Fun Factory, I see over 80 children a week enjoying the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect through football. This program provides not just a physical outlet but also a space where children can build confidence and camaraderie in a safe and structured environment.

Additionally, I personally hire the space weekly to play badminton, and I regularly use the gym facilities. Beyond my personal involvement, I've seen firsthand how Tides serves as a lifeline for so many in our community. The sports hall is essential for other clubs, families, and individuals who rely on it as a safe, accessible, and welcoming place to engage in healthy activities.

Closing the sports hall, even temporarily, would disrupt these activities, impacting the physical and mental well-being of countless adults and children alike. Many local clubs may struggle to find alternative venues, and families will lose a convenient, trusted space to stay active. For some, the sports hall is one of the few affordable options for exercise and social connection in our area.

Since the sports hall itself is not part of the planned renovation, I urge you to consider keeping it open until the refurbishment begins to ensure continuity for the community. It's crucial that this valuable resource remains available to the public to avoid the unnecessary loss of activities that so many depend on.

Thank you for your time and for listening to the voices of our community. I hope that this perspective helps demonstrate how vital Tides Leisure Centre is and encourages the Council to reconsider its plans.

Kindest regards,

Football Fun Factory

East Kent ACRO

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Meeting on January 27th

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to address a pressing issue regarding the upcoming meeting scheduled for January 27th at 6 PM at Dover District Council. As a concerned member of the East Kent Acro community, I feel it is important to voice the collective sentiments of our gymnasts and their families regarding the timing and location of this meeting.

Firstly, I would like to highlight that our training sessions occur every Monday from 5 PM to 8 PM. This schedule unfortunately overlaps with the proposed meeting time, making it impossible for our gymnasts and their families to attend. It is crucial that the voices of all stakeholders—especially those directly affected—are included in discussions that concern our training and development. The absence of our gymnasts and their parents from this meeting could lead to a skewed perspective and decisions that do not adequately represent our community's needs.

Moreover, it is important to note that a significant number of parents within our club do not have access to transportation. This presents an additional barrier to attendance, further complicating the situation. It raises a fundamental question: why was a suitable time and date not arranged in consultation with the club? Engaging with us in the planning stages would have fostered a more inclusive environment and ensured that the meeting would be accessible to all.

The location of the meeting is also a point of concern. Holding it at Dover District Council rather than at our training center—a space familiar and accessible to our gymnasts and their families—seems counterintuitive. The training center is not only a hub for our activities but also a place where our community thrives. Conducting the meeting there would demonstrate an understanding of our unique circumstances and allow for a more inclusive atmosphere.

In light of these considerations, I propose that we explore the possibility of rescheduling the meeting to Tuesday, January 28th if it must be held at Dover District Council. This adjustment would provide a greater opportunity for our members to attend and contribute to the discussions. It would also allow us to gather a more comprehensive representation of opinions and concerns, ensuring that the meeting serves its intended purpose effectively.

Furthermore, I would appreciate more clarity regarding who is permitted to attend the meeting. Understanding the parameters of attendance will help us make necessary arrangements and ensure that all interested parties can participate. Transparency in this matter is vital for fostering trust and collaboration between the council and our club.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the current arrangements for the meeting on January 27th. By taking into account the training schedules of our gymnasts and the

logistical challenges faced by parents, we can create a more inclusive and productive dialogue. The East Kent Acro community is eager to contribute to discussions that affect us, but we must first ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to be heard.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. I look forward to your prompt response and hope for a resolution that benefits all parties involved.