

Mrs T Coutts

16th April 2009

Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 4TR

PARKS & GREEN SPACES

RE MAIDSTONE ROAD SPORTS GROUND (CHATHAM)

Dear Medway Council

I am writing to you today on behalf of the many residents & visitors who value this green space, the services & sports facilities provided at this site.

We believe this public amenity to be an essential community resource. For decades it has been enjoyed & well used by people of differing cultural, social & economic backgrounds, young & old alike. It remains a popular venue, busy all year round. We would therefore have anticipated that Medway Council would not only continue to maintain this facility & the existing services it provides but also invest in improvements to the site for the present & future benefit of our children & community.

It was disappointing to learn of changes / cuts to services & facilities at this site. Seemingly we have lost our attendants and we have no guarantee that existing sports facilities [tennis] will continue either ? We oppose these cuts and wish to complain about this.

It is hard to understand the Council's decision not to investment, harder still to understand - not to maintain, but hardest of all to understand - to cut what's left [existing services].

It is disappointing that Medway Council seemingly neither consulted nor informed the community & people who use the Sports Ground about these cuts ? We also wish to complain about this.

It is difficult to understand the Council's motives for their lack consultation with the public about the future of this site & its' services, - the very people who not only fund the Council but also have paid for / continue to pay for this amenity.

With regard to the popularity of the Sports Ground, there can be no doubt that our attendants have helped to keep the site clean & safe, deterring anti social behaviour, littering, dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti, nuisance bikes, the drug dealers, addicts & drunks, etc. It is therefore of great concern and difficult to understand why this important attendant service has been cut ?

With further thought to sports facilities, surely it is essential to invest in, provide, maintain & promote these to actively encourage healthy life styles not just for the present but also for future generations. It is therefore also difficult to understand why the existing tennis courts at our Sports Ground are now unattended & locked up, so they are not able to be used ?

As tax payers we believe that we should have been consulted about our services, we have the right to have our say also to have views heard & considered.

We oppose and are campaigning & petitioning against the cuts.

As an indication of current public feeling on this subject, please find the enclosed petition [thus far] for your consideration.

We kindly request that Medway Council respond to our petition & complaints.

With thought to consultation, we would ask Medway to re-consider, open a dialogue with residents & visitors who use the Sports Ground and work in collaboration with them to shape the services that we use. We welcome your response.

We would ask Medway Council to re-consider the cuts, please re-instate our attendants and enable us to continue to make use of the existing tennis courts at this site. We welcome your response.

We would ask Medway Council to consider improvements to the site. We used to have a toilet, but this is now derelict. We used to have a bench, but this has been removed. There could also be a more creative use made of some of the existing space & resources, perhaps something for older youths. We would therefore ask you to provide a toilet and some benches & tables. We would ask you to think of our children's & young people's needs and consider their opinions about what they would like at this site and that you would plan & provide accordingly. We welcome your response.

We would also use this opportunity to ask Medway Council to make known any current or future plans it has for the site in regards of re-classification / change of purpose for building.

We look forward to your reply. Please reply within the next 10 days

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Coutts', written over a horizontal line.

T. Coutts

On behalf of residents & visitors.