



HAYWARDS HEATH
TOWN COUNCIL

Joint Press Release on behalf of the above Councils in connection with the development of Haywards Heath Golf Club

Public Meeting on the proposed Development of Haywards Heath Golf Course – Cancelled due to Covid 19 virus

18th March 2020

For immediate Use

The public meeting planned for 30 March 2020 at the Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, has been cancelled as a result of the Covid 19 virus. The Joint public meeting, which was being organised by Lindfield Rural Parish Council and Lindfield Parish Council, in conjunction with Haywards Heath Town Council and Ardingly Parish Council to discuss the development of Haywards Heath Golf Club. *Details of the Planning Application can be found in note 3 below.*

The main aim of the meeting was to give the developers an opportunity to present their proposals and to collect the views of residents to inform the respective Councils when making their responses to the Planning Authority (Mid Sussex District Council). In addition to the public attendance, the Councils also intended to invite representatives of the developers, Planning Authority, landowners, Golf Club, elected councillors for Parish, Town, District and County, as well as the local Member of Parliament, and other interested parties to the meeting. It was also planned that in addition to public contribution, these representatives would also be given an opportunity to comment on the development as well, as part of the public debate.

Trevor Webster, Chair of Lindfield Rural Parish Council, on behalf of all the Councils said “We are very disappointed that we have had to cancel the meeting, but public safety is paramount and the virus risk cannot be ignored. Our response will be to ask MSDC to suspend the planning application process until such time that this important public meeting can be held, recognising that the development of the Golf Club is a highly controversial issue. Without the meeting, it places the Community at a disadvantage, in not being able have their voices heard fully. I would, therefore, urge MSDC to recognise that we are in a position where it is not “business as usual” but we are in a public health crisis where absolute flexibility is needed by abandoning the 6 April closing date for comments on the application, until very much later in the year.

The four Councils will continue to collate the views of residents via Survey Monkey, Facebook, email and will also continue to advise them that they should send copies of their views direct to Mid Sussex District Council Planning Portal; but in doing so, we still believe that holding a public meeting remains an essential ingredient in gathering a comprehensive view from the Community, especially from those residents not familiar with social media.

NOTES

1. The contact person for media enquiries in connection with this meeting is Sol Mead on SMead@lindfieldrural-pc.org.uk or 07771900864

2. The contact persons within each Council is

Santi Gil clerk@lindfieldrural-pc.org.uk - 01444 831499

David Parsons clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk – 01444 484115

Steven Trice town.clerk@haywardsheath.gov.uk – 01444 455694

Bernadette Cox ardinglypc@hotmail.co.uk - 01444 226 209

3. Details of the Planning Application can found on the Mid Sussex District Council via their Planning Portal – <https://pa.midsussex.gov.uk/online-applications/> under Haywards Heath Golf Club Planning Application – Ref No DM/20/0559. Details of which show an Outline application for the demolition of existing Clubhouse, Pro Shop, storage buildings, and 2 no. dwellings, change of use from Golf Course, and erection of up to 725 new dwellings, including 30% affordable housing. Alterations to High Beech Lane. Provision of associated infrastructure including recreation facilities including public open space and play space, community facilities and retail, provision of pedestrian linkages, landscaping and drainage. All matters to be reserved except for access.