

From: Elizabeth Minkin
Date: 10/03/2008 22:14
To: info@abbeygrange.leeds.sch.uk
Cc: Bernard Atha, John Illingworth
Subject: Powerleague proposals at Butcher Hill

Dear Mrs. Wilson,

Thankyou for your letter of 7th March, and I hope this email address is convenient for you, since it is the one on the headed notepaper.

Please find below a copy of the letter I have sent to Mr Key. You will read that I request you meet the three Kirkstall councillors with the Headteacher, and hope that can be arranged very soon. I do not know what you mean when you say in your letter "It is regrettable that you did not feel able to accept any of the invitations offered to you to meet with the Headteacher and myself". I welcome the implication that you are indeed willing to meet us, but I do assure you that I have never received any invitation.

You do not mention whether you have copied my letter to you of 15th February to the other members of the governing body. I repeat my request that you do so please, as well as this letter to Mr Key. Will you do that please?

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Liz Minkin

395 1735 - office

278 0218 – home

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Minkin/MEM/LCC on 10/03/2008 22:03 -----

From: Elizabeth Minkin/MEM/LCC
Date: 10/03/2008 22:02
To: info@abbeygrange.leeds.sch.uk
cc: Bernard Atha, John Illingworth, Chris Edwards, Phil Crabtree, Sarah Charlton
Subject: Powerleague proposals at Butcher Hill

Dear Mr. Key,

Thankyou for your letter dated 18th February and I write to confirm that I support the views of my colleague Cllr John Illingworth, in his email to you of 5th March.

I am sorry that you were not able to invite the Kirkstall ward councillors to discuss the school's proposals, as you indicated you would when you rang me towards the end of January this year. I did not receive an invitation to attend the meeting called at the school on 4th Feb at extremely short notice. I hope nevertheless that you will agree to meet us, with the Chair of Governors, to whom I will copy this email. I hope you can tell us about what are the school's needs for improved sports provision, and that we can work with Education Leeds and the Development Department and the Inner North West Area Committee to find ways of assisting, without resorting to such drastic intervention with a private commercial company.

I cannot support any part of the package the School is proposing to enter into with Powerleague, and will restate some of the points I made in my letter to Mrs Wilson of 15th February. I feel confident that the proposals can not comply either with the Guidance for The Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for Academies nor with the planning issues of the land being in the Green Belt and part of the Urban Green Corridor.

There is a substantial case to be made against the Powerleague plans under both sets of legislation. Some of the major points against the Guidance are:

1. they provide overwhelmingly for sports for males
2. they reduce substantially the amount of open space available to the local community
3. the facilities will not be available to the school nor the wider community for after school activities
4. the local community will not be able to access the facilities
5. they are aimed at making profit for a private company
6. the school does not need the number of pitches
7. the school does not need the car park
8. the school will lose control of its land

Some of the major points on planning grounds are:

1. the site is in the green belt and there are no special circumstances to lay that designation aside (policies N32 and 33). Neither can the scheme comply with policy GB1 nor with policy GB20.
2. the site forms part of the Urban Green Corridor and the proposals cannot comply with policies N8 nor N9
3. neither can the scheme be shown to comply with policy N44, for its scale and intensity is not compatible with green belt policy objectives, and neither does it promote opportunities for leisure and recreation for the community at large.
4. the sports pavilion is much higher than one storey and the area of its bar is bigger than space for changing facilities
5. there will be adverse traffic implications
6. there will be disturbance caused by lighting and noise

The proposals have caused huge unease locally, as you will no doubt be aware. There is no sign of local support for your proposals, though we have done our best to ensure all local residents are aware of the scheme.

I request that you withdraw from contracting with Powerleague, and start constructive discussions with local councillors, local residents and Leeds City Council to the benefit of the pupils and the local residents. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Minkin

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