



## W E S T B E R G H O L T P A R I S H C O U N C I L

# Extending the Use of the Multi User Games Area (MUGA)

## Notes of the Open Meeting for Village Residents.

Meeting held at the John Lampon Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008, 7.00p.m.

Parish Councillors (PC) Present:

Bob Tyrrell (In the Chair), Jenny Church, Andrew Savage, Chris Stevenson,  
Harry Stone

Clerk: Val Walsom

17 members of the public, Councillor Gill Tod, Councillor Dennis Willetts

Apologies John Gili-Ross, David Short, Peter Sleigh, Sally Butcher, Amber Harlow,  
Murray Harlow, David Bowden.

### Open Meeting Objective

The main objectives of the meeting was to discuss increasing the use of the MUGA to allow greater community use of the facility and to remove some of the conditions imposed by the original MUGA planning conditions that affect the type and nature of activities that can be carried out.

Bob Tyrrell - Chaired the meeting as John Gili-Ross had been admitted to hospital earlier in the week.

Harry Stone - is responsible for helping the youth of the village. Meetings of the Bergholt Youth Group (BYG) showed that the village youth would like more facilities for sport including the use of the MUGA where appropriate. Members of the BYG are encouraged to help themselves in this regard and have set up a management committee. Letters from 2 members of BYG, Essex County Council Youth Services and the Deputy Head of Stanway School were received in support of extending the use of the MUGA and these were circulated. The BYG has been encouraged by volunteers offering expert sports help including an ex professional footballer.

Currently, other than for tennis, evening use of the MUGA is restricted to one evening per week for use by the Football Club, who currently do not make of this use this.

The Parish Council has received communications from some local residents expressing concern at increased use but these have been balanced by nearby residents supporting the initiative.

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Chairman - John Gili-Ross Vice-Chairman - Bob Tyrrell Councillors - Sally Butcher, Jenny Church, Bernard Colbron,  
Peter Johnson, Andrew Savage, David Short, Peter Sleigh, Chris Stevenson, Harry Stone



## WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

The following comments were made from the floor and by members of the Parish Council:

Mark Duffy (BHYFC) - BHYFC would also like to use the facility on Thursday nights for training. This could be instead of the Wednesday evenings now not used by WBFC.

Terry Smith (WBFC) - The surface is too hard for football training purposes. He asked if the lights could be swivelled towards the grass for their training evenings.

Malcolm Ball - Is this going to be for blanket use? What are the activities?

PC - This cannot be specified at this time as the extent of activities requested by the BYG and other interested village residents is not fully known. Skateboarding will not be considered on the MUGA as the PC consider this activity as inappropriate for the immediate area. In keeping with the demands of a thriving community the PC would like the facility to be made available for use by the residents every evening from 5pm to 9pm if demand warrants. Currently it is available only for tennis and football on a Wednesday. Tennis is mainly played on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The PC would also seek to have the type of activities that are carried out on the MUGA changed to any acceptable recreational activity. The determination as to acceptability would reside with the PC as the elected community authority.

Joe Austin (WBMSC) - At the time of the original planning application a limit was put on the usage due to noise.

Suzanne Bowden (BYG) - Usage by the BYG would be properly supervised.

Peter Wakeling - Basketball is noisy. Would boards be up permanently? Basketball was removed from the original planning application.

Ruul Fox (Sports trainer) - When training was carried out the children would have rules to follow and be properly supervised.

Joe Austin - Once the MUGA had been established it was always hoped that other sporting activities would be able to make use the facility. It was assumed that the Planners will look at complaints history relating to noise and use of the facility outside existing planning permission limits.

Mrs McSweeney - Complains that she can hear every ball played. She asked what other games are envisaged. She stated that the PC did not respond to a complaint which she made last November 2007 about football being played 4 times a week. She had not received a response until January 2008.

PC - The PC does not hold a meeting in December and any correspondence received in this period (unless urgent) would not be responded to until after the January PC meeting. The football club playing times are not covered by the planning conditions of the MUGA which is the object of this open meeting. There is a separate agreement for the use of the Lorkin Daniell playing field between the users and the field management trustees.



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Mr Cote - There are more children in the village now. He would support a facility where children will be supervised and have something to do.

Ros Stone - We should be encouraging youngsters to play sport.

June Poole - In the first 2 years the MUGA was barely used. How many groups use the facility?

Belinda Waterman - Facility used by tennis players except one night a week outside tennis.

Peter Wakeling - Would extra nights be supervised?

PC - Yes, where extra nights were used by the BYG these would definitely be supervised activities. The PC would wish to take responsibility for making any decision as to who uses the facility and what are the acceptable hours of use. In all cases people have to be reasonable in their demands and use of the facility as the PC has to serve the entire community.

Mrs McSweeney - Stated that in her opinion the location of the MUGA is inappropriate and should have been located elsewhere.

The Chairman closed the public session and thanked everyone for their comments. The meeting finished at 7.30p.m.