

Norman Park – Proposed New Community Sports and Recreation Centre

Your chance to show your support

Blackheath & Bromley Harriers and Norman Park Track Management Ltd have been in discussions with Bromley Council for some time with a view to securing a long-term future for the track at Norman Park. These discussions have resulted in agreement in principle that B&BHAC should take over from the Council the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the track for the benefit of the local community under a long term lease.

To make the project viable, B&BHAC, a registered charity, intends to sell its existing clubhouse in Hayes, and raise additional funds, to finance the development of a new community sports and recreation centre at the track. The new centre will not only contain improved changing and related accommodation, as well as a modern café and large indoor fitness area, but will also accommodate further multi-purpose rooms and related facilities, all of which will be available for community use throughout the week. Revenues raised from the operation of the centre will be applied towards the operation and maintenance costs of the centre and the track.

Considerable work has been conducted to realise this exciting project. We are now at the stage where critical decisions concerning the planning process are to be made in the next few weeks. While feedback to date has been positive, we are aware of one potentially substantial obstacle: the Mayor of London has determined that the proposal is an inappropriate development and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

We firmly believe that the benefits to the community from ensuring that the track at Norman Park remains available for years to come and from providing facilities for an expanded range of sports, fitness and recreational activities, more than satisfy the very special circumstances test. But we can take nothing for granted and we have been advised that our case will be strengthened substantially if we can show the Planning Authorities, especially the London Mayor, that we have widespread community support for the project.

We would therefore invite everyone to write to us in support of the project, either as an individual or on behalf of a user, or potential user, group. (If you would like further information about the planned facilities and their availability, please let us know.) You can simply say that you think securing the future of the track and providing new facilities for the community should be supported. If you would also like to mention why the track and these facilities are important to you or your friends and family, that would be even better. Indications of your support will also assist us in raising the additional funding we require to complete the project.

You can reach us at normanpark@btconnect.com and please also copy your local Councillor, whose contact details can be found at <https://cds.bromley.gov.uk/mgCommitteeMailingList.aspx?ID=0>

Many thanks,
The Project Team