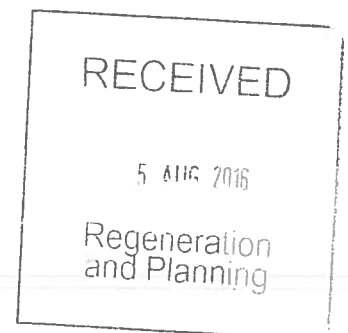
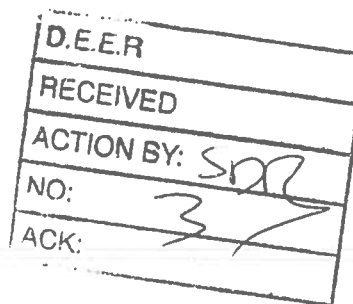




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S D Butler
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Dock Office
Barry Docks
Barry
CF63 4RT

08 JULY 2016



Dear Mr Butler,

00843/FUL - Sully Sports and Social Club, South Road, Sully.

As you are aware the above application has been submitted for consideration and the Club committee wanted to write to you to set out the Club's position.

The Sports and Social Club was originally established in 1962 by Barry Plastics for use by its workers at a very low membership fee and as such has served the local community for over 54 years. The Club provides facilities for all to use, not just the local community but also those further afield with the sports provision including, bowls, football, rugby and skittles. There is also a social facility which appeals to all ages and provides a focus and meeting point for the local area. The facility is often used for social events including for specialist clubs such as the radio club but also for bingo, quiz nights and holds numerous events throughout the year on a larger scale including car shows, football festival (this is an annual event where there are between 800 - 1,000 participants) and circus all available to both the local and national population. The original membership fee was set very low to ensure was available to all in the community and this philosophy has continued in recent times and will continue on this basis in the future.

The Club is now in serious financial difficulties, to such an extent that should the club continue in its current form, the facility is likely to fold in less than two years with the facilities then being lost and even more pressure being placed on less sports facilities in the Vale. As a consequence, there is a very short timescale left in which to secure the financial stability of the facility to ensure its continued use into the future.

The Club has been supported over the years by the local community and is used to encourage youngsters to become interested in sports to promote a healthy lifestyle, which is so important in today's day and age. This philosophy has attracted many youngsters into sport as the club now has both youth teams for football and rugby for both sexes which will hopefully encourage them to continue in sporting activities throughout their lifetime. The Club currently has 28 football teams for both boys and girls, with the youngest group being for 5 year olds, junior teams from the ages of 8 years old, youth squads for children between the ages of 13 to 16 and two senior teams. The football club is at capacity with no further places available which shows its popularity but also is unable to cater for any more intake due to the facilities. Whereas the new facilities proposed will generate further capacity with the improved all weather pitch which would then allow far more children to enjoy playing sports at the Club.

The Club recognises the importance of football in not only encouraging youngsters to be fit and healthy but also when encouraged to join a football facility at a very young age the players are likely to continue to support and play at the Club after school years into the senior sides. The success of the Welsh International football team at the Euro 2016 championship where Wales reach the semi-finals will also bring football into a much more prominent position in Wales with children wanting to emulate their heroes. The importance of encouraging children into sport and in particular to football was most recently demonstrated by the support of the current and in recent times, probably best known Welsh football international, Gareth Bale, last year when he visited the Sully Club in October to run a youth training session for the day to promote sport and the Club (copy of the Wales online newspaper article dated 16th October 2015 is attached with Gareth Bale pictured at the Sully Club). The article highlights a quote by Gareth Bale whilst at the Club which is set out below as follows:

"Grassroots football is so important because it's where every footballer starts their journey in their career and being able to participate, have the right equipment and the right facilities is massively important for making football better in the future."

Ensuring the right facilities to youngsters is close to the hearts of international footballers and rugby players alike and any loss could have a detrimental impact to the youth of the area.

The Club committee has been fully aware that these facilities are in a real danger of being lost and has carefully considered its needs and after careful assessment is able to provide brand new facilities which will ensure its future survival. The Club decided to partner with St. Modwen, to design the new facilities efficiently and use the remaining land for much needed housing. The purpose of the housing land is to provide the capital funding for the new sports facilities but will also add to the much needed market and affordable housing required in the Vale of Glamorgan. Once these sports facilities are built, together with the income received from the gym and

caravan park, the Club's business plan demonstrates that it could then survive for future generations, enabling the sports facilities to be used for many years to come. This would also add to the local economy together with providing a positive benefit to the local community.

It is vital for the survival of the Club that the application is approved otherwise the short term prospects are dire with the loss of the facilities within the next 2 years. Sport Wales recognise that there was a benefit of the new scheme in their response to the application where it was recognised that the proposed new sports facilities, particularly the new full size all weather pitch has the potential to improve the existing provision. Sport Wales consider that the existing facilities are well used and the replacement facilities would be used by the existing and new users. It would be a shame for such a facility to be lost to the community with all the benefits that it brings to the area.

As such, taking all of the above into account, the Club committee requests that you look favourably upon this application and approve the submitted application to ensure the future survival of the community facilities. This should be seen as a special and exceptional circumstance to allow this application to ensure the future survival of the club and its community facilities.

Thank you for your time in considering this request.

Yours sincerely

Alwyn Davies
Chairman

Sully Sports and Social Club
South Road,
Sully
CF64 5SP

Watch Gareth Bale surprise a group of youngsters at a football training session

21:43, 16 OCT 2015 UPDATED 21:43, 16 OCT 2015 BY [PHILIP DEWEY](#)

The Real Madrid star visited Sully Sports FC as part of the McDonald's Accredited Club Kit Scheme



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Young footballers were stunned when they were joined for a training session by [Gareth Bale](#) .

The Welsh and Real Madrid superstar from [Cardiff](#) surprised the youngsters at Sully Sports FC on Wednesday when he turned up with a bag of balls the day after [Wales' win against Andorra](#) .

More: [The big Gareth Bale Euro 2016 interview - what playing for Wales really means](#)

The visit was part of the McDonald's Accredited Club Kit Scheme, supported by the [Welsh National Football Association](#).



RECEIVED

5 JUN 2015

Generation
and Planning



Gareth Bale helps Launch The McDonald's 100000th Kit Scheme to Sully Sports FC

He presented the kids with their new football strip for the season and gave them a master class in how to score a goal.

Gareth, who will now look forward to the Euros 2016 in France after qualifying with Wales, said: "Grassroots football is so important because it's where every footballer starts their journey in their career and being able to participate, have the right equipment and the right facilities is massively important for making football better in the future."

