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18th August 1995

Dear Peter,

WIVENHOE TENNIS CLUB

Thank you for your kind invitation concerning the Civic Service and Exhibition. Wivenhoe Tennis Club will be pleased to attend and take part.

Unfortunately that weekend also marks the culmination of our season and we are holding a dinner on the Saturday evening and our club finals on the Sunday afternoon. We will certainly mount a display at the exhibition, but may find it difficult to man throughout the Sunday afternoon.

We have had another successful season, but are presently experiencing uncertainty through lack of playing facilities in Wivenhoe.

For about the last 25 years we have hired courts at the University, but at the beginning of this season were warned that courts would not be available to fully meet our needs this season and beyond. This caused some concern as we field 7 teams in the local leagues; have over 40 adult members needing club facilities and 25 juniors who receive weekly coaching.

Fortunately Mr Haigh and his staff at the Borough Council were very helpful and accommodated us at short notice for 2 nights per week on 3 courts at Shrub End. A facility we hope to reuse next season. Our demand for playing facilities is high. We need 3 courts for a match. On average we have home matches 2 to 3 nights per week during the season. We also have club nights on 3 nights - when we normally use 4 courts. We use 3 courts for junior coaching.

We have already expressed interest to Mr Haigh in having tennis facilities included in any redevelopment of Wivenhoe Town Football Club and would be pleased to be part of any fundraising exercise that the Borough and/or the Town may initiate to secure these or alternative facilities.

If you are able to offer any advice, support or practical help in enabling us to secure our future please let me or one of our other officers know.

Thank you for your interest. My best wishes to you in your year as mayor. I look forward to seeing you at the Civic Reception and Exhibition shortly.

Yours sincerely



Phil Bingham (Secretary)



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Mr Phil Bingham
Secretary, Wivenhoe Tennis Club

28th August 1995

Dear Phil,

Thank you for your letter of 18th August. I was very interested to read it and have taken the liberty of copying it to not just the members of the Wivenhoe Town Council but I have also sent it to the Borough Council.

It is obviously very relevant to our proposals to create a charitable trust to take over the strategic development of the Broad Lane, with the Football Club as a major user of facilities there, but with a clear policy of wanting to see other organisations adopt the venue as their long term home as well. By establishing a new body as a charitable trust, to be called the Wivenhoe & District Sporting Facilities Trust, I would hope that not only will we be able to work in co-operation with the Borough Council but also be successful in attracting grant aid for the development of facilities there.

In theory, and I would hope in practice too, Broad Lane could become a super home for the Tennis Club. If several tennis courts were installed there, the Club would not only have playing facilities but also ready made changing rooms, Club-house and Bar, and venue for an annual Dinner Dance or whatever.

Your letter has been included in the working papers of one of the CBC Committees which meets on Tuesday, 29th August, as part of the agenda item which is giving final consideration to the proposal for the Borough Council to buy the site and lease it to the Trust. I will keep you informed of progress.

I look forward to seeing you at the Civic Service and also having some display material for the Wivenhoe Exhibition. I note that the date of this coincides with other activities of the Club. If you care to let me have something beforehand, I will arrange for it to be set out. It doesn't need to be very much but some details about the Club, how to join, its playing successes etc in the form of posters could be very good.

Best wishes and particularly for fine weather on your Club Finals. Let me know how you all get on.

Yours sincerely,