

WIVENHOE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB: MEETING WITH WIVENHOE TOWN  
COUNCIL ON 23 DECEMBER 1993

1. Overall Long Term Objective

- a. To preserve the position of Wivenhoe Town Football Club as a Non-professional club playing at a high standard of non-league Football.
- b. To gain control of the Club so that it can be run as a local club and developed as a local resource, with increased links with Wivenhoe Youth Football Club.
- c. To explore the possibility of developing the Club in a wider role as a local Sports and Leisure Centre, including the provision of Dinner/Dance facilities:

2. Possible Medium to Long Term Options for Survival

- a. For a local benefactor to buy the Club and agree to allow the Club Committee to run the Club with minimal involvement.
- b. For the Borough Council to purchase the freehold and to lease it back to the Club Committee so that the long term future of the Club will be assured; and to gain the interest of CBC in developing a wider role at the site (Sports and Leisure facilities).
- c. To agree a medium to long term leasehold arrangement with the present owner with the option to buy at a concessionary price. This may mean the establishment of a Campaign Fund to raise sufficient cash to buy the site.
- d. For a commercial interest to buy the site and to run the Club as a business with the local Committee losing control.

3. Possible short term option

- a. For the Committee to run the Club on a month to month basis to allow breathing space to develop longer term options. Negotiations with the owner have revealed that this is a possibility. This would mean that the site would remain up for sale, with the owner able to close the site down at any stage.
- b. This would mean:-

-the Club Committee would gain day to day control of the Club

-the Committee would run the bar and clubhouse; but

-the full time staff would be made redundant

-the Committee would be responsible for paying all bills, including rates, insurance, heat and light, telephone, players and match officials' expenses, fines, ground maintenance etc.

-the owner would charge a rent for the site

c. The owner would not want to see a position where the Committee were running at a loss when he might feel obliged to bail the Club out again, or be seen even more as a local bad man.

#### 4. Problems with the short term option

a. There is by no means any certainty that the Committee could run the Club at break even or even a small profit.

b. If the Club were to close, those running the Club at the time would incur a substantial fine of between £5000 and £10000.

c. The owner could close the Club at whim, and may be able to sell to an outside consortium (it is understood that a number of enquiries have been received).

#### 5. Consideration of action which Wivenhoe Town Council might take

a. To continue to support the Club publicly by stating at every possible occasion that they wish to see the Club continue as a locally based facility.

b. To work with the Committee in its campaign for survival e.g. advice, help and support in approaching Colchester Borough Council, and in pursuing other options.

c. Possible short term financial aid; e.g. help with any rent and/or the rates bill; or security against fine for early closure.