

Statement: PS11.02

Cabinet – 8 February 2022

Re: Agenda item 11 - Leisure Facilities Investment and Procurement

Statement submitted by: Ian Blanter

Dear Mayor Rees and Committee

I hope you will reconsider your proposal to close Kingsdown Sports Centre. I have been using various Bristol gyms, 4 times a week for over 60 years. I have found Kingsdown Sports Centre one of the best in that it is local, caters for the opportunity of gym training, cycling, squash and badminton all at one facility. In fact it caters for $\frac{3}{4}$ of all current available municipal squash courts and houses one of the largest sports halls with all its multiple uses.

It is a fact that the sports floor was only very recently refurbished at a cost of something like £100,000.00.

Closer, alternative Council sports centres would not be a viable option for me since there are no direct or indirect public transport routes available. I can't think how else I would get to any other affordable fitness gym.

I find it very difficult to believe that Kingsdown is not a viable venue since, apart from the lock-down periods, it has always been well supported. Indeed there have been many times when I have found some cycling classes over booked. To lose this facility would be one lost for ever at a time when physical and mental fitness has always been a Government aim. To sell and dispose of the venue for short term financial gain is very short sighted as it loses a valuable community asset which can never be replaced. This gym is a gem of an asset and should be kept open at all cost.