

Statement: PS11.15

Cabinet – 8 February 2022

Re: Agenda item 11 - Leisure Facilities Investment and Procurement

Statement submitted by: Kitty Odell

I have been a loyal member of Kingsdown Gym since 2008.....to hear that it is under threat of closure is a moral disgrace, I am absolutely appalled and shocked that closing a gym could even be considered...especially at this time where peoples mental health has been greatly affected by the Covid pandemic....we all know the HUGE benefits of exercise on mental health and well being....also obesity is a massive growing issue...so need I explain further why Kingsdown Gym is a huge asset to the local community and a necessity.....it is well attended, the badminton courts have huge numbers of people using it....for every court booked by 1 individual, there can be at least 6 people using the court for the session.

I use the gym equipment upstairs which is well used by a diverse sector of the community, gyms are a vital community resource which help bind people together, at no time is it more necessary than now, as I am sure you must appreciate to keep ALL gyms open....I understand the need for economies BUT to threaten such a well established and important place such as our Kingsdown Gym is disgraceful.....

The staff themselves are so friendly and warm they contribute hugely to making it feel like a community hub where all are welcome.

I implore you to look again and reconsider, to lose this vital gym would be a HUGE loss to the whole community. And an immoral decision too....

Please do not respond by suggesting I could go to the other gyms such as Easton or Horfield, they are too far away, I am not a car owner and even if I was, do you not agree that it would be hugely counter intuitive for people to start driving to a gym??!!

Local is COMMUNITY!