

Statement: PS11.16

Cabinet – 8 February 2022

Re: Agenda item 11 - Leisure Facilities Investment and Procurement

Statement submitted by: Roger Caldwell

As a local resident and pensioner I wish to voice my objection to the proposal that the Sports Centre in Kingsdown be closed.

I first joined the centre to participate in the yoga classes there following a discussions with my doctor and physiotherapist concerning treatments available to me for severe back pain. I have been attending these sessions for some time now and have begun to feel the health benefits. I am also no longer able to run or cycle owing to knee pain and have found the aerobic training available at the centre a useful supplement to my main exercise of swimming. Were the centre to be closed I would be obliged to drive (contrary to the councils overall strategy) should I wish to continue these therapeutic activities elsewhere.

As a Kingsdown resident in my upper 60s I have no wish to move to the private facilities available none of which are within, easy for me, walking distance of my home and would be considerably more expensive. I do, however, wish to continue to exercise and lighten the load on the NHS.

On a separate, but relevant, note see that a number of charging points for electric cars are being installed at the centre. This would be a most welcome use of the centre parking space which is not heavily used in an area where very few homes have off street parking and, hence, are not encouraged to make the change to electric vehicles (as promoted by both Bristol Council and the national government) surely this initiative would be at risk of being lost should the proposed closure proceed.