

The Whitehaven News

Thursday 26 May 2011

TRUST IN HAVEN

CHAIRMAN'S POINTS OF CLARIFICATION

You may have seen my letter in 'The Whitehaven News' on Thursday 26 May on the subject of the proposed plans for the new stadium, with the heading, "Little time to study plans". It was signed off by me as Chairman, Trust In Haven, Whitehaven Supporters Co-operative Limited. I wish to make it clear that this was done prior to the Trust's Board meeting on Tuesday 31 May and without the full Board's knowledge. Although the letter did reflect the comments made to me by Trust members I was, technically speaking, wrong in giving the impression that my views were representative of the full Board and you, the members. For this, I unreservedly apologise.

My letter was a reaction to the statement, "Today's drop-in session will be over a four hour period from 2pm to 6pm." I felt there was an urgent need to draw attention to the fact that there was no time for proper consultation with the community at large and, of course, with potential users of the new development. I am now pleased to see more time and more opportunities will be afforded for everyone to submit their opinions (although I am uncertain about the format, e.g. feedback, at this stage)?

I also expressed (a personal) concern that the ONLY widely circulated image to the general public is a 3D representation creating the illusion of a complete, magnificent stadium when, in fact, there is only going to be less than half a build – to me that's like an estate agent sending out a picture of a corner of a house, only for the buyer to discover there are only two walls!

May I also clarify that I – and other members of the Board – have always given the project a resounding, 'Yes' – my letter said: "The vision of a brand new stadium, meeting every criteria and one that kick-starts the process of achieving the Pow Beck Sports Village, is a laudable and much-needed community venture."

That aside, I should also clarify that whilst I thought my letter was acting in the best interests of the Trust's membership, the opinions I expressed were without your consent and for that I do apologise. I will therefore leave it to you to voice your opinions individually.

Jan Stephenson