

**Application No. 18/00368/FUL**

**2 Central Avenue & 14 Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2AA**

**Objector's Representations – Mr T Kitchener**

If this application is approved it will be a great loss to the community of Wigston and also the surrounding villages/towns. 'The Winchester' has been revived back to its glory days, offering great facilities for the circa 6500 members that use the facilities. 'The Winchester' is a safe environment for all aged people and allows them to play a sport they enjoy. In previous years 'The Winchester' has offered an academy to teach and nurture talent, without this opportunity to young teenagers and children talent could go wasted with the game suffering overall.

I currently believe that no research has been done on how this will affect the world sport of snooker. 'The Winchester' is a partner of the EPSB and registered with World Snooker, if these plans are approved the sport would lose out massively, therefore I have researched on what needs to be done from a 'Sport England's' point of view as Snooker is recognised by 'Sport England'. I believe that an ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide) has not been carried out, as stated in Sport England's policy.

Furthermore Paragraph 97 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless: an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss. I believe the above which I have stated have not been answered nor researched from the developers point of view and therefore I wish the local authority to take this into consideration.

Sport England's vision is that everyone in England, regardless of age, background or level of ability, feels able to engage in physical activity and sport. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone - meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers. (Towards An Active Nation 2016 - 2021). If these plans are approved it would be a dark day for the 6500 members, staff and the local economy and therefore I ask the local authority to get behind the members of the public and object to this application in the attempt to retain a successful business which has been operating for over 50 years.