

Press Release

Chancellor supports new Sports Facilities on Wilmslow Road, Alderley Edge

The Rt Hon George Osborne, MP has written to Cheshire East Council to support the creation of Sports Fields on Wilmslow Road, which will be a fitting legacy for the 2012 Olympics, and a major step forward in implementing the Health and Wellbeing Agenda of Cheshire East.

On that single site, there will be sports facilities for the Girls School, available to the wider public, plus football fields for the near 300 young players from Alderley United. In addition, the Hockey Pitch which the Girls School will provide, will be available for AECC - Hockey Section use, which will raise the profile of the village as a sporting village.

The Chancellor is in support of the work which I and Councillor Mike Williamson, in his role as Chairman of the Parish Council, have done over recent years to plan the transformation of the facilities on offer in Alderley Edge.

The Building blocks were: ownership of the Festival Hall; control of the Heyes Lane Allotment site; identification of an Alternative Statutory Allotment site, which is Lydiat Lane; and finally, identification of a site capable of hosting sports fields for both Alderley Edge School for Girls, and football fields for the local club, Alderley United.

In return for a long lease on the Wilmslow Road fields, the Girls School will lease Lydiat Lane to the Parish Council in order to provide a Statutory Allotment site, so that Heyes Lane Allotment holders can be re-located. The Girls School will also sub-lease part of the Wilmslow Road site to Alderley United.

The current Heyes Lane Allotment site will augment the offer of the Medical Centre, making Alderley Edge self-sufficient in medical facilities for many, many years to come. In addition, the Festival Hall will be transformed as a venue, capable of serving the community needs as now, but also capable of attracting premium bookings.

A major driving force in developing the Wilmslow Road site is the need to keep a barrier between Alderley Edge and Wilmslow, and when a long lease sports facility is in place, the danger of residential development on that site goes away for at least 125 years.

When the pieces are in place, Alderley Edge Parish Council will have provided a new Medical Centre, a revamped Festival Hall and a vast improvement on the sports facilities within the village.

Councillor Frank Keegan, Cheshire East Ward Member for Alderley Edge

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