

LDC CONSULTATION ON USE OF THE STANLEY TURNER GROUND

- 1) The Friends of Lewes are the civic society for Lewes with about 500 members. They welcome the opportunity to comment on the future use of the Stanley Turner ground.
- 2) As a sports facility the site has served the town for many years and this has been appreciated by those who use it as well as supporters of the sports concerned. It is recognised that there may be deficiencies in the present facilities. However it is on the edge of the town where any development would have landscape impact and so a comprehensive approach to the future use of the land, which takes into account these wider considerations, needs to be taken. This approach should also give consideration to the use of the land currently outside the playing fields which was gifted to the town by the late Councillor Albert Turner. It should also consider the role that the Stanley Turner ground has in relation to the overall sporting facilities in the town especially other LDC facilities.
- 3) Although the Society is happy that the playing fields should continue to be used for organised sport it objects to the possibility that the District Council are considering giving a long lease to one club. Whilst it recognises that security of tenure may need to be shown to obtain grants for investment at the site, it considers that other ways of satisfying grant makers conditions should be explored. The Society's view is that it would be preferable if the various clubs using the site could form a non-exclusive partnership to put forward proposals for improving the site and then be involved in its management.
- 4) In making proposals for improvements the effect on the landscape of any changes to the site must be a prime consideration whilst any proposals for lighting need to be very carefully drawn up so as to reduce light pollution. The proposals also need to make provision for the siting of wheelie bins and the continuation of the cycle path to Kingston through the Stanley Turner land to avoid cyclists having to use the C7 Car parking should be minimised and properly landscaped whilst sustainable forms of transport to and from the ground should be encouraged. The landscaping of any buildings, which will need to have finished floor levels above the flood plain, will also be significant. The Society would welcome the opportunity of seeing and commenting on any plans for the site whilst they are still at an embryonic stage.