

Mr A J Woolford
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Contact: Mrs R J Piddock
Ext No: 4054
Reply to: Director of Law Property
and Administration
Our Ref: A/RJP/EPW
Your Ref:
Date: 7 December 1995

Dear Mr Woolford

SPORTS ACADEMY AND ICE CENTRE AT OLD PARK, DOVER

The Capital Programme Appraisal Working Group met on Tuesday 5 December and considered the Dover Society's proposal for a Sports Academy and Ice Centre at the Old Park Barracks, amongst other matters.

The Group considered the work the Dover Society had done in establishing a basis for such a Centre. It was necessary to determine whether the proposal accorded with the agreed Sports Strategy for the District which has been subject to public consultation and the input of the Sports Council and whether the particular site at Old Park is appropriate.

There have been previous suggestions for a National Sports Academy at Deal on the Royal Marine Barracks site. In these discussions it had been realised that support from the Sports Council was crucial for any progress to be made and that a National Centre was more likely to be based in the centre of the Country where there was better access. At best, a facility using the existing sports infra-structure in Deal would be fortunate to cater for one specialist unit of a National Sports Academy.

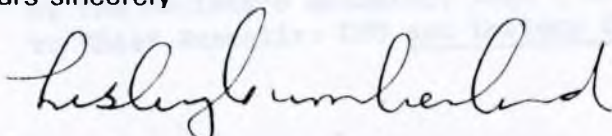
The Group felt the same considerations applied at the Old Park Barracks site.

This Council is asked for its support in respect of many proposals and must rely on evidence of support from other relevant bodies or the private sector. The work so far carried out by the Dover Society does not provide evidence of public or private sector support.

The Group also considered competing priorities for the Old Park site which is subject to Government and Local Government investment for industrial use and forms part of the previous and successful bid for Single Regeneration Budget funds. It was felt that the priority for this site remained industrial employment generation which is the most acute requirement for the District.

I am sorry therefore to say that the Group could not recommend support of the Sports Academy and Ice Centre in the present circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Director of Law Property and Administration