

From: officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk

Sent: 26 May 2021 11:53

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: (Case Ref: ZA18492) from Clive Betts MP/SWFC/ACV

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing with regard to my support for the action of the Sheffield Wednesday Supporters Trust in seeking to have Hillsborough Stadium designated as an Asset of Community Value. I am not quite sure which officer in the Council or which Department would deal with this but clearly it is a significant request and I trust that the Council will now give it appropriate consideration. I am also forwarding this letter to the Trust as I understand they will be the organisation formally requesting the designation and my letter will be one of support for their action.

A building or other land is defined as being an Asset of Community Value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social well-being or social interests of the local community. Social interests are defined as including cultural recreation and sporting interests. I also understand that currently Old Trafford, Anfield and Elland Road are all designated as Assets of Community Value so quite clearly other Councils have concluded that professional football grounds fall within this definition.

I hope therefore that on receiving the formal application from Sheffield Wednesday Supporters Trust the Council will recognise that Hillsborough Stadium clearly falls within the definition as stated above and would follow the precedent of other grounds having been already so designated.

I hope indeed that the Council will recognise that there is increasing concern amongst football fans across the country that assets which they rely on for their football interest and enjoyment could eventually be sold in a way which would be detrimental to them as supporters. An Asset of Community Value does not of course give supporters the right to come in and buy the stadium if the owner does not want to sell or less than a price than an owner could obtain from someone else, but what it does do is to ensure that the sale cannot take place without the supporters being alerted to it and a moratorium put on the sale during which time the issues around the sale and its consequences can be fully identified and highlighted by those, in the end, who are the essence of the Club and that is the fans who go to games and follow the team at the stadium.

I look forward to what I hope is a positive response.

Yours sincerely

CLIVE BETTS

Clive Betts MP
for Sheffield South East