

Epsom, Surrey, KT18 6AB

1st May 2019

Sam Beak,
Leisure Development Manager,
Town Hall,
The Parade, Epsom,
KT18 5BY.

Dear Sam Beck,

Closure of Rainbow Indoor Bowling Rinks.

Please find enclosed a copy of my letter to Darren Pope, General Manager, Rainbow Leisure Centre.

We are disappointed that the Rainbow Management have proposed the closure of the Indoor Bowling Rinks at such a short notice. As you can read in my letter, we were given no time to respond to this plan and feel we have been side-lined in the Rainbow's future. We hoped for a full consultation period of at least one year to give us time to promote our sport (indoors and out). As you are aware Bowling is a Summer Sport with Outdoor greens. The Council support Outdoor Bowling in the Parks but seems unable to support Indoor bowling in the borough. In the past elder members of our community have enjoyed this activity all year round. This looks like it will be ending for the Winter months.

Please pass on my concerns to the relevant committees concerned with this decision.

Yours sincerely,

HUNTERS BOWLING CLUB

c/o Epsom Bowling Club,
Worple Road,
Epsom,
KT18 5EW

The Manager,
The Rainbow Centre
East Street,
Epsom.

Dear Sir,

Closure of Rainbow Indoor Bowling Rinks.

Following the Consultative meeting at the Rainbow Leisure Centre on 9/04/2019 we feel we must put into writing our feelings about the way the Rainbow Centre has handled this matter. We do not understand why this decision has been made so quickly giving us no time to respond to the decision in full. We had no indication that the Centre were considering closure and a two week consultation period is simply inadequate for such a serious decision involving the ending of Indoor Bowling in the borough of Epsom and Ewell.

We know that the Indoor Bowling goes into a quiet period during the summer months because we play outside from May to September. Outside bowling closes for seven months of the year and we look forward to transferring our playing inside at the Rainbow Centre. As you know, Bowling is generally for older members and represents good exercise and a sociable outing for our 24 members. When the Rainbow Centre was re-built we fought to get our two rinks and it now seems such a shame that bowling will completely cease. The rinks represent a very valuable purpose built asset for Epsom and whilst we understand that it probably does not make a profit, older members do enjoy the facility. Bowling at the Rainbow has never been

successfully promoted or encouraged. Very few local residents are aware that they can use the rinks. We do wonder if a short promotional period could be introduced to test the market and see if attendance could be improved.

The purchase of bowling mats for use in the main gym will not be a good use of funds. As a club we take our bowling seriously, we are not prepared to play on a rolled out carpet and competing with other gym users and asking for the carpets to be put out. Thus if the current rinks are taken away it will mean the end of Indoor Bowling in the Borough.

We understand that Puffin club will also lose this facility which will no doubt be a blow for their members.

We have not seen figures relating to the proposed soft play facility but we assume that you are convinced of the volume of use it will enjoy. Is there another area that could be used for this facility or could one be built?

In closing, we would like to formally request a stay of the current plans while a proper study is carried out to see if the Bowling facility can attract more activity and in this respect we would be pleased to discuss how we can help promote bowling at the Rainbow.

We have copied our letter to Epsom Borough Council and Bowls England and hope that our views will be considered and the valuable bowling facility remains in use for local residents.

Yours faithfully

Howard G. Ellis

Hunters Bowling Club.