



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Jack Hawkesworth,
Bidwells LLP

By email

16th July 2020

Dear Mr Hawkesworth,

I am writing on behalf of a number of my constituents in Great Denham and Biddenham who are extremely concerned by the news that the Great Denham Golf Course is to close and that there appear to be no plans for a successor business to replace it.

They are concerned by the possibility that the site will ultimately be proposed for housing and that this would have a very significant impact on the quality of life of residents who have been able to benefit from this green space and the buffer that it provides as a "green edge" between Bedford and both villages.

In addition, the club house is very well used by residents who are not members of the golf club. It has for many years been used as a community hub and the site has also been used for the annual fireworks display.

Constituents who have been in touch with me have expressed their dismay at the news about the potential closure of the course and the potential impact for the community. You will be aware of the strength of feeling of residents, as evidenced by the petition which attracted over 1600 signatures in a matter of days.

I would be grateful for your response to the following questions please:

- 1) Please can you advise the current position of Bidwells and/or your client with regard to the future of the Great Denham Golf Course.
- 2) If the present lease is not being renewed, please confirm whether or not it is Bidwells (and/or your client's) intention for the site to continue as a golf course?
- 3) Please confirm what steps have been taken, or are planned to be taken, to secure a successor business to operate the golf course.
- 4) If the golf course closes, please confirm the specific plans for the management of the site.



- 5) In circumstances where arranging a physical meeting between Bidwells, your client, residents and their representatives would be difficult as a result of the social distancing measures in place, please confirm that no planning proposals will be progressed by Bidwells and/or your client with regard to the future of the site until it has been possible for such meeting(s) to take place.
- 6) It is, of course, the concern of many constituents that the site will be proposed for housing. Please confirm whether that is Bidwells and/or your client's intention.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Fuller MP
Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire