

CORFE MULLEN PARISH COUNCIL

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26 February 2014

Dear Judith

Nomination of land/building to be listed as a community asset

I am writing to put forward the former Virgin Active Leisure Centre site to be listed as a community asset.

The site address is 14, Wareham Road, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3LE, and is outlined in red in the attached plan.

I understand that EDDC provided relevant titles from the Land Registry to Councillor Holland and that therefore you are already aware of ownership. Virgin Active closed on 21 February 2014 and the site is currently vacant.

The Parish Council believes that the site meets the criteria as it has for decades been used for sports and recreational activity which furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community. In addition, under the current Local Plan and the emerging Core Strategy, the land is designated as recreational.

I understand that Virgin Active's reasons for leaving the site are more to do with the company's strategic direction rather than any direct concerns over viability of a leisure centre on the site. The leisure centre was extremely busy and there is a strong feeling in the community that it should remain as a leisure centre. A number of Corfe Mullen exercise teachers who used rooms at the leisure centre have lost the venue and income as a result of the closure.

With a large population, there is clearly a need for a leisure centre in the parish, and it is hoped that the owner will not pursue an exception under para 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework and will instead market the leasehold to a new provider. If there is no interest, the Parish Council has discussed and agreed that it would actively pursue a community-run option.

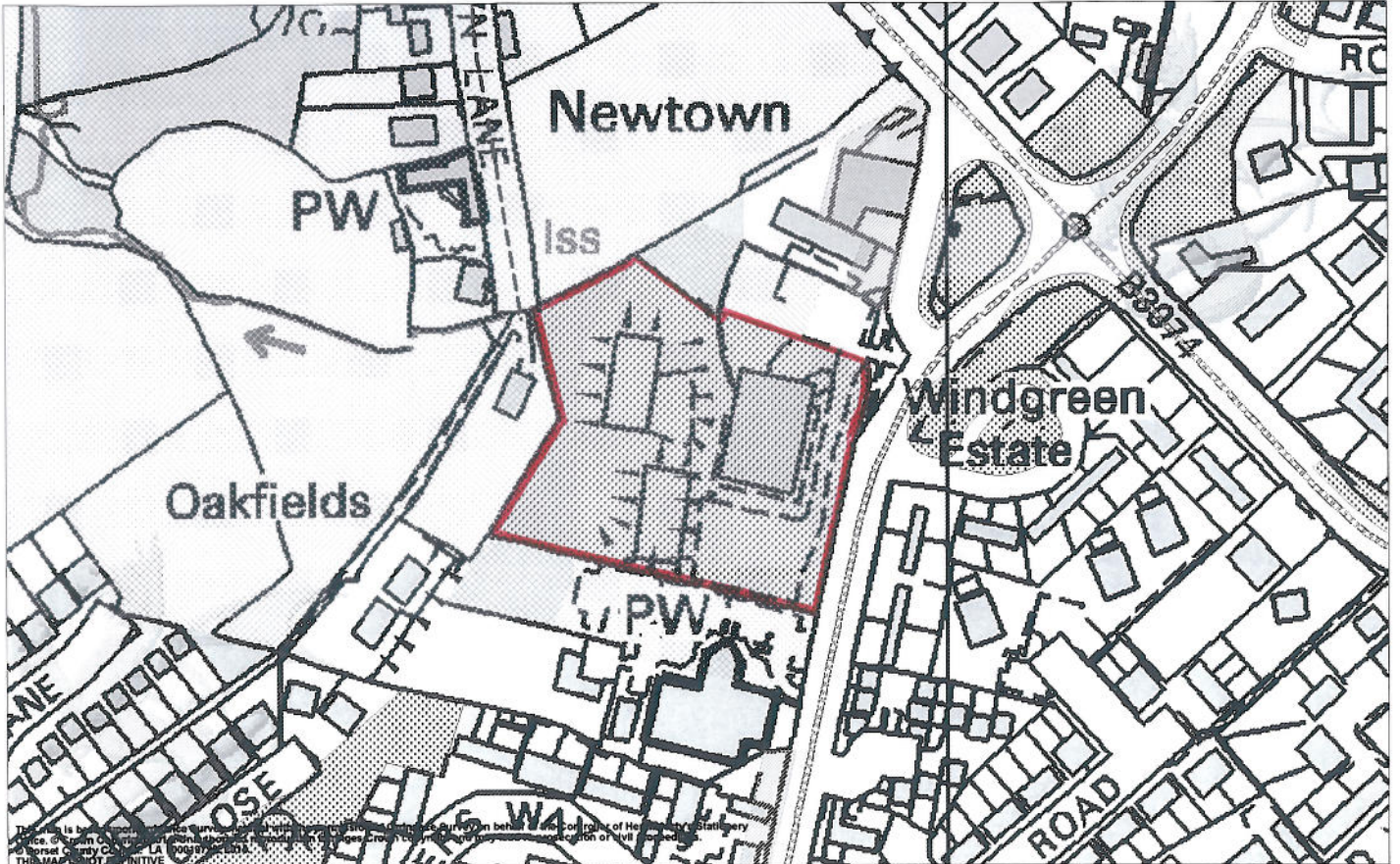
As the site lies with Corfe Mullen parish, the Parish Council is eligible to nominate it for consideration as a community asset. I will be the main contact for the Parish Council.

I trust that I have provided all the relevant information, however should you require any clarification on any points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Blee'.

Katrina M Blee
Parish Clerk



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Date: 26/02/2014
Easting: 398909
Northing: 97407
Scale: 1:1811