



HEDDON JUNIORS FC

FA Affiliation – U/NHU1671
FA Charter Standard Club

Tuesday 2nd June 2019

Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council
Heddon Library & Business Centre
Towne Gate
Heddon-on-the-Wall
Northumberland
NE15 0EJ

Members of Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council,

In response to the letter dated 28th June 2019, regarding the non-renewal of Heddon Juniors Football Club's lease, we respectfully request that you reconsider this matter. Your decision is as surprising as it is devastating to our organisation, and, given the short notice before the term's conclusion, we hope to gain additional insight into your decision-making process, provide clarity on our position, and reach an amicable solution that will preserve this resource for our young players and community.

Could we please request a copy of the agenda and minutes taken, from the meeting held, when the decision to not renew the lease was made.

Firstly, we would like to correct several points from your letter of eviction that are cited as prime factors in this decision;

- We are not a company and not a commercial venture; we are a not-for-profit organisation.
- Our plans are not to "enlarge Selman Park"; we are planning to develop a new site for use in addition to Selman Park.

In your own words, the original plan for Selman Park was "always for the youth and people of Heddon to utilise with a small amount of use by third parties." As an independent organisation, we may be classified as a third party, but we are also a part of the Heddon community with a significant portion of members from Heddon-on-the-Wall and the surrounding suburbs. The Heddon Juniors Football Club is intrinsically linked to this community and has a vested interest in its peace, prosperity, and heritage.



Currently, Heddon Juniors Football Club accommodates a total of 31 children who live in Heddon-on-the-Wall as well as 39 children who attend Heddon St Andrews Primary School.

We also pride ourselves knowing that within a 3-mile radius of Heddon-on-the-Wall, we attract over 70 children.

Beyond the benefits that Heddon Juniors Football Club provides to players and their families, we take every opportunity to participate in local events and support neighbouring organisations. As an example, we have worked with Heddon St. Andrews Primary School since our inception, where we have donated both kit and equipment, and offered support at school events — including Summer Fair and Armed Forces Day. We are proud to support our players both after school and during, and were pleased to see so many familiar faces speaking, singing, and acting as part of the commendable service at last week's Armed Forces Day event.

Our rapid expansion is testament to the fact that this area needs and desires a local sports club for its children. At our inception, just two years ago, we had one squad consisting of 12 children. Today, we have 18 squads serving 134 boys and girls ranging from ages 4 to 13. In that same time, we have brought pride to Heddon and the players themselves with:

- League Winners
- Cup Winners
- Tournament Winners
- National Event Fair Play Winners

We are also immensely proud of our achievements beyond the football pitch. Every week the children look forward to returning to Selman Park with smiles on their faces. They have formed friendships, adopted positive habits, and developed both socially and physically in ways that will impact their lives well into adulthood.

As an inclusive organisation, we are additionally encouraged by the thanks we have received from parents of children with autism, ADHD, dyspraxia and other challenging conditions for whom football provides an irreplaceable outlet to develop social skills and bonds.

These are all accomplishments that have only been made possible through a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship with yourselves.

Since Friday's announcement of Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council's surprise decision, we have received an outpouring of support from the local community,



including schools, businesses and residents who all recognize and support the great work we do for the community, as well as the fantastic reputation we have developed over the past two years. They are as shocked and saddened as we are, and, as representatives of this community that we all enjoy, we hope that you will take their concerns to heart in reconsidering this choice.

In your letter, you stated that the members of the Parish Council discussed avenues and options that might assist our organisation, but noted that all were dismissed as futile. Given the misunderstandings addressed previously, and acknowledging that no one communicated with any member of our organisation for clarity before this dismissal, we would appreciate if you would share what was discussed so that we can explore these options together and identify an amicable solution that will not result in the eviction of this club and the resulting damage it will inflict on the children, families, businesses, and community who have benefitted from its very existence, which is suddenly threatened by a fast approaching termination date of July 31st.

We are happy to address any and all issues that may have factored into your decision-making process and to continue working with you as valued and contributing members of the local community.

Sincerely,

The Heddon Juniors Football Club