



BATHSPORT SUPPORTS 'KEEP BATH RUGBY AT THE REC' CAMPAIGN

BathSport has always promoted a permanent, modern home for Bath Rugby as one of several beneficial outcomes in a future regeneration of the Rec.

From the outset, BathSport recognised that any proposal promoted by Bath Rugby, and which is of necessity focused primarily on its own needs, could fail to clear key legal hurdles.

The Rec, and indeed by far the majority of land in the recreational heart of the city, is charitable land. An acceptable solution for the future must pass a rigorous test of broad public benefit and be a driver of community development. The unique location of the Rec in the World Heritage Site demands a solution of outstanding merit and broad appeal to all beneficiaries, and must support the strategic direction and vision of the city.

The BathSport proposal, which has been developed with wide consultation and many professional contributions, has been published in some detail (see www.bathsport.org), including a well-argued case for meeting the key legal principles so important to the Charity Commission as the regulator for the future use of the Rec.

Bath Rugby has repeatedly and justifiably stressed the urgency of a solution to maintain its presence on the Rec. Yet no firm proposal has emerged from Bath Rugby for public scrutiny. It is vital that Bath Rugby now becomes more transparent with the status and detail of its own proposed project. BathSport supports the Bath Chronicle 'Keep Bath Rugby at the Rec' campaign as an essential outcome. But Bath Rugby needs to respond to the blind faith shown by the petition signatories, engage with these supporters and publish promptly its own development plan.

The BathSport development model is available to inform public debate, but the Bath Rugby proposal is not. BathSport believes that both options should be available to illuminate the public consultation phase of the Strategic Review.

BathSport is not in competition with Bath Rugby. BathSport has simply offered a different vision of the future which may prove to be a more viable alternative solution of public benefit.