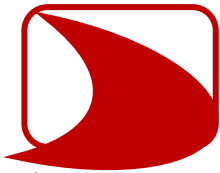


## Sporttrain: All Consultation responses

PET(4)-05-12 p12c

I live in Cynon Valley and have not received any complaints from constituents, though I'm sure those using these facilities will be seriously affected. Any such facility provided for young people will obviously have an adverse affect if discontinued.

Cllr Alby Davies M B E



3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

Our Ref: 030112jlh

Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Sir

**Re: Petition on Retaining the Services of Sporttrain in Rhondda and Cardiff**

Red Valley Enterprises CIC is a Social Enterprise that raises funds in support of the Gilfach Goch Community Association and the services and activities that the association provides to the community and surrounding areas.

As the Social Enterprise Development Officer responsible for the development of the social enterprise, I would like to say that whilst I echo entirely the supporting information provided by the Petitioner in terms of their positive impact on the lives of local young people, I agree that the committee also needs to give due consideration to the positive impact that Sporttrain has also had on other local organisations who over a period of time have benefitted from that service.

In the case of Gilfach Goch and the Gilfach Goch Community & Recreation Centre where Sporttrain had been based since October 2010, the hosting of Sporttrain as part of the centre had provided: -

- Rental revenues of just under £22,500 for RVE CIC and subsequently the community services and activities that it supports
- Additional revenues of just under £3,000 for the above through their use of the Community Gymnasium
- Much needed additional revenues to a local catering business through their use of the centres Community Cafe
- Much needed additional revenues to a number of small shops based in Gilfach Goch

As well as the above, the hosting of Sporttrain had also: -

- Encouraged young people on the scheme to work with the centre to raise money for various charities
- Encouraged young people on the scheme to help plan and organise events and activities for children in the community



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- Encouraged young people on the scheme to support various training initiatives as well giving up their time to help with team building and other personal development initiatives

In general, I believe that as well as losing the revenues that help sustain both local businesses and the work currently being undertaken by Gilfach Goch Community Association, both the charity and its trading arm have also lost a key partner in community development and in particular the work being undertaken by both Gilfach Goch Community Association and Sporttrain to support the development of young people both in Gilfach Goch and the surrounding areas.

As further evidence of the partnership that had been built with Sporttrain and the level of support that the Gilfach Goch Community & Recreation Centre was able to offer Sporttrain, the centre was able to provide the following: -

- The use of a Gymnasium, Sports Hall and playing fields in order to support physical development as well as providing many opportunities for Health & Wellbeing related activities.
- Facilities for academic and vocational training to include the use of 2 training rooms, an office, an IT Suite as well as full meeting and conference facilities
- The centre was also able to provide many opportunities for additional training as well as access to a number of services and facilities being provided by both the association and other organisations based at the centre.

Should the Committee require any further information regarding the views submitted in our letter, I will be only too happy to oblige. In the meantime it is the hope of everybody represented in this letter that the Petitions Committee give due consideration to its contents and the implications for a local community when community services such as those provided by Sporttrain are not retained.

Yours Faithfully

*Julian Harman*

Julian Harman  
(Social Enterprise Development Officer)

Carfan Y Cymer



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**Cymmer Ward**

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Communities First  
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**National Assembly for Wales**

Petitions Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

20<sup>th</sup> December 2011

To, Mr William Powell (Chair of the Petitions Committee)

**Petition on Retaining the Services of Sporttrain in Rhondda and Cardiff**

On behalf of Cymmer Ward Communities First Partnership I would like to express our support for the retention of support to the Sport train project.

Prior to October 2010 when the project was based at the Waun Wen Community Centre in Trebanog, Cymmer, we had a very positive partnership with Sporttrain. This included their support for our Parent and Toddler Groups, After School Clubs and Youth Club. The young people volunteering were able to put into practice what they were learning during the day and this benefitted not only them but the surrounding community by having sports trained volunteers helping out with the children. This arrangement was also used for play schemes during the Summer and Easter, when students would spend a day having practical experience of working with younger children under the supervision of a qualified play worker. Indeed such was the success that several young people were used as sessional workers or coaches in the Youth Club.

Indeed the very ethos of the programme is to try and demonstrate the importance of team work and cooperation. This has I believe played an important



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element in preventing some of these young people from negative careers and anti social behaviour and showing them the positives gained from work and community involvement.

However, in addition to what we and the community gained through the project, we believe that many young people, some being our most challenging young people, also gained valuable experience, qualifications and self confidence through the project. At a time when figures show that levels of NEETS are rising and young people are not achieving the basic levels of exercise required, to stop such a beneficial project targeting these young people would certainly seem a very retrograde step.

If you would like to discuss any of the points above or have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address above.

Kind regards  
Steve Smith  
Coordinator, Cymmer Ward Communities First

To whom it may concern,

My name is Chris Jones and I have been the Rhondda Schools Rugby Development Officer for the last 19 years.

In this role, I have had numerous young people from Sports Train come to help me coach and organise rugby tournaments and training sessions in both Primary and Secondary Schools in the Rhondda Valley.

They have learned to prepare, organise and deliver these sessions. Many schools have been so impressed by their good work and by the quality of the Sports Train students themselves that they have asked that they continue to deliver sessions in the schools on a weekly basis.

Obviously the school children of Rhondda have benefited from Sports Train input but I know first-hand that Sports Train students themselves have gained from this experience.

For example my assistant Rugby Development Officer, Ben Daniels who is currently the youngest ever Welsh Rugby Union Level 3 coach, began his coaching career as a 17 year old student, 6 years ago, with Sports Train.

I really believe that by removing this Training Provision so many young people in the Valleys will lose out, especially those who are of an age where they are not in education or employment.

In an area deprived in so many ways Sports Train has provided a positive environment for such youngsters to thrive and at the same time be of a benefit to their community.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Jones.