

I am Patricia Ludlam and am representing Sion Hill and Summerhill Road Residents Association.

Sion Hill borders the north side of the approach Course and many properties have boundaries and gates onto it.

We oppose any change of use of the High Common and we want golf to continue there.

High Common has been a park for 140 years It is a beautiful green space, with the best views of Bath from the top. It is situated in the heart of The World Heritage Setting of Bath and is very important within that setting. We need to protect Bath's Heritage.

I spoke at the Cabinet meeting last July to support Golf remaining on the Approach Course when its future was in doubt.

At the end of that meeting C. Crossley summed up the debate by stating that Golf would definitely remain on the 18hole course, As Residents we were all relieved and relaxed over the summer, especially when he gave further assurances.

The golf operation has been closed for a year due to the Pandemic and the High Common has proved to be a place of refuge for young and old to exercise, enjoy the panoramic views and escape from lockdown. Golfers still come with their own clubs and manage to play at quiet times. Snow brought out the toboggans; fun for everyone.

However, - A new operator had to be found

The Council had decided to re define the High Common, as a Sports venue, not a park. It is the Council's view that sports venues have to be self-financing. The land had previously been maintained by the Council but it is no longer able to do so.

Disc golf was prepared to take this on as little maintenance of the land is required once it is set up. It was the only bid so became the preferred bid in spite of it being totally inappropriate for this historic site. Disc golf is not found in residential areas because of the danger from flying discs. Usually found near playing fields or in countryside venues. It is noisy, harmful to trees and to the land. It is mostly played by young people.

Golf is enjoyed by young and old. It has existed on High Common for 60 years in harmony with residents. It is special here because anyone can come and play without joining a club and it is affordable for students and visitors to Bath. Local golf players and residents have been coming forward with ideas of how golf could be encouraged, by engaging with local schools, universities and hotels.

We urge Cabinet not to award the contract for Disc golf but engage with local residents who have so much interest and help to offer.