

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerks: Alex Coxall & Abi Williams
Melbourn Parish Council
Melbourn Community Hub
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Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10:00 – 13:00 / 14:00 – 15:00

Please call in advance to arrange an appointment

Mark Norman
The Cam Academy Trust
Comberton Village College
West St
Comberton
Cambridge
CB23 7DU

8 May 2024

Dear Mr Norman

Melbourn Sports Centre closure

It was with great sadness and shock that Melbourn Parish Council learned about the sudden and unexpected closure of Melbourn Sports Centre late in the evening on Friday 26th April. I am sure you can appreciate the extreme level of great concern this decision has created. Melbourn Parish Council is therefore contacting you directly on behalf of the community it represents and on behalf of all users. Many individuals appear to have suffered financial losses, however, the wider negative impact on well-being will be much more serious than just financial loss. The facility has been part of our ever-growing village for over 30 years and it contains immense local financial and emotional investment.

Losing such a vital community asset not only deprives us of a space for physical activity but also diminishes the sense of unity and belonging that our community deserves. The sports centre is more than just a collection of buildings; it is a symbol of our collective commitment to health, well-being, and togetherness. Its closure has far-reaching consequences, impacting not only individuals who rely on its facilities but also local sports teams, schools, and organisations that utilise its resources for training, events and competition.

Many of these local groups have worked tirelessly to fund the improvements made to the sports centre and as such have a vested interest in the resolution of, what we hope is, this temporary closure. Some of the agreements put in place on the provision of the pool, and more recently, the 4G pitch hold responsibility with Melbourn Village College and, one would assume, The Cam Academy Trust to ensure public access to the facilities. This closure is going against these agreements and as such may be at risk of breaching contracts with S106 contributors, the Football Association and numerous other bodies, including the NHS.

There seems to have been an information vacuum. Residents and organisations who use the Sports Centre have contacted us with the expectation of a statement. It is disappointing to have no idea whatsoever of what the future holds. So far no clarity has been forthcoming from the College hierarchy. The Melbourn Parish Council has close working relationships with many of the major users and the instant closure of areas such as the 4G pitch creates almost impossible practical problems for all parties, including the Council.

Melbourn Parish Council contact you to strongly advocate for the preservation and rapid return of Melbourn Sports Centre and to explore potential solutions that can ensure its continued operation for generations to come. It is imperative that we safeguard this invaluable resource and urge you to work with all parties to ensure the rapid re-opening of this facility.

Melbourn Parish Council unreservedly offers full help and support. We urge The Cam Academy Trust to involve us and the wider community in the future plans for Melbourn Sports Centre. An early response would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Abi Williams

p.p. Abi Williams, Parish Clerk for Melbourn Parish Council