



**David Bell**  
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By email & post

14 March 2011

**CSSC: CHADWICK STREET RECREATION CENTRE**

Thank you for your letter of 2 March 2011.

My letter of 28 February 2011 sought to assure you that any submission made by the London Management Board (LMB) for the retention of the Chadwick Street Recreation Street (CSRC) would be fully considered by the Management Board (MB). As Chairman of CSSC, I stand by that commitment.

MB has responsibility for the financial wellbeing of CSSC and seeks to ensure value for money for all our members. The volunteers on MB are drawn from across CSSC and have experience of all aspects of our operations including club management, Area Associations and Regions, including London.

The future of CSSC clubs has been the subject of extensive debate at CSSC conferences over many years; London itself was affected when the decision to assign the lease at Chiswick was made last year. In deciding the future of any club, MB considers both general guidelines and the local situation. Each facility is considered individually. The normal expectation is that facilities should break even and not adversely affect the provision of other activities and opportunities for CSSC members in the locality. However, MB can decide that there are exceptional reasons why a facility should be retained despite not meeting those criteria.

Paragraph two of your letter makes a number of specific assertions regarding the case for retention of CSRC. These include

- it being wrong for a 'break even' financial standard to be applied to the CSRC,
- the facility is a key national and regional one,
- it is justified for members' subscriptions to be spent on the facility provided costs are tightly controlled, and
- closure is not needed to achieve the wider programme of activities across London.

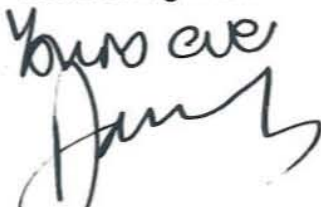
I would expect these arguments to be part of a submission by the LMB to the MB, together with the financial proposals that you indicated were available in your letter of 21 February. Doubtless the LMB submission will also have regard to the other points raised in that letter. These are matters for the volunteers on MB to consider when reviewing the position of CSRC.

The other point you have raised is the view that the MB has not consulted the LMB about the proposed closure. Having considered the LMB's request for additional funding at its meeting in December, the MB members decided that the position was so serious that they moved directly to a proposal to close CSRC from June 2011. I acknowledge that there was no consultation with the LMB prior to this proposal being developed. However, since Peter Fischer, Vice Chairman of CSSC, Marian Holmes, Chief Executive, and David Hayday, Director of Operations, met the officers of the LMB on 6 January 2011 and the staff and wider LMB were notified on 10 January, there have been many discussions, meetings and exchanges about whether the proposal to close should proceed, what would happen if it did and what alternatives to closure might be possible. These discussions have included meetings between CSSC senior staff and officers of the LMB, the LMB's 'Club Closure Committee' and the LMB in its entirety and there have been many one-to-one exchanges with LMB members and individual CSSC members. Within these discussions, the rationale for the proposed closure has been discussed in detail and all the stakeholders concerned have sought to better understand the proposal and its implications. Given the level of engagement and exchanges over the past eight weeks, I would not agree with you that there is 'an unfulfilled obligation to consult its own [MB's] London Management Board'.

What has not yet happened in these consultations is any setting out of the views of, or proposals from, the LMB. The LMB needs to decide whether it wishes to put forward its views for consideration by the MB. It is the MB members who have to decide whether or not CSRC closes in June.

I would again urge you and your colleagues on the LMB to discuss this as a matter of urgency and decide whether or not you wish to make representations to the MB and ask them to reconsider their proposal. Given the time that has already elapsed and the content of your letters, I would expect that the LMB could formulate a submission very quickly and forward it by, say, Friday 18 March.

Kindest regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bell', written in a cursive style.

DAVID BELL