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John Hirsh
Chairman, LOSRA
21 School Walk
Lower Sunbury
Middlesex
TW16 6RB

11 May 2009

Dear LOSRA Committee Member

As you may be aware, for the last five years London Irish has been looking into alternative sites to potentially relocate from its existing premises at The Avenue, Sunbury, which the club has outgrown.

The Avenue, Sunbury has been the home of the London Irish since 1931 and over the years the site has been developed to provide playing, training, administration and hospitality facilities. Today, The Avenue provides the training headquarters for the Professional squad as well as a base for the 800 members of the London Irish England Rugby Academy and the Amateur Club. In recent years it has become clear that The Avenue is no longer able to accommodate the requirements of London Irish or allow for future expansion due to limitations of space.

London Irish considers Spelthorne and in particular Sunbury as our spiritual home and with 300 mini rugby players playing every Sunday throughout the season and over 450 of members living within a 10 mile radius, we really want to stay in the local area. We have therefore carried out an extensive search, considering over 20 sites and the nearby Hazelwood Golf Club has been identified as a suitable site. At 22.4 hectares this site has the space to serve the growing needs of the club compared to the 6.4 hectares of our existing site, whilst also creating the opportunity to provide additional community facilities. To fund this move, the current London Irish premises at The Avenue, would need to be redeveloped.

We understand how important it will be to get this development right in terms of landscape and design, particularly as residential properties neighbour the site. We have therefore appointed an extensive professional team including Urban Initiatives who is recognised as one of the UK's leading masterplanning consultancies, with a sensitive approach to urban design at its very core.



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Initial outline proposals for both sites are currently being drawn up and it will be essential that we engage with the local community, as their feedback is important to us and we want to hear their thoughts and views on our initial plans.

We recognise that Lower Sunbury Residents Association (LOSRA) is a key stakeholder within the local community and therefore we want to ensure that you are fully engaged in the process as plans develop for both The Avenue and Hazelwood sites. We would be happy to arrange a meeting at this time if you feel that it would be beneficial.

We will also be sending a letter to all residents bordering The Avenue site as understanding local views and opinions is a fundamental part of helping to make this relocation possible and ensure the future of London Irish in Sunbury. To assist us in this, we have appointed community relations consultants M&N Communications (M&N), to ensure that the local community and key stakeholders are kept fully informed at every stage.

The development process will take time and M&N will keep you updated with any information that may affect you, at the earliest possible stage. They will also let you know how you can get involved with the consultation and design process in the near future, including dates for a public exhibition which will be held in mid-June. Members of LOSRA will be invited to a preview of the public exhibition and M&N will let you know about this event.

If you would like to set up the suggested introductory meeting in the interim then please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Biddle or Katie Kinnes at M&N Communications, who will be happy to coordinate this, on Tel: 01483 415915 or email r.biddle@mncommunications.co.uk
k.kinnes@mncommunications.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Graham Walpole
Chief Executive, London Irish

cc. Paul Watts