

Madam Chairman, planning committee members, I thank you for your time in allowing me to read my short statement.

I am reading this statement in the capacity of 1 of 3 Ward members for Great Notley and Black Notley and with the full support of the other 2 members, Cllr Butland and Cllr Cunningham.

Since Great Notley Parish Council came up with the idea of the Project to renew the Recreational Area For Teenagers (or RAFT for short) it has maintained a focus of not just delivering for a niche following but for the wider youth and young adults within the community.

They consulted with the younger members of the community via school surveys and targeted questions via social media and engaged with Peer council groups who had delivered other like sized projects before even entering the concept phase of the project.

Based on those responses and peer engagement, the parish carried out scoping of what a new RAFT could look like before seeking further comments on its concept ideas.

The way the Parish council has planned, funded, consulted on this project needs to be commended.

They have consistently updated ward members via Parish council meetings, planned and applied good governance in the procurement process and been innovative with funding sources as well as funding from its own budget. And finally, engaged with Braintree District Council during planning process to bring this application to you this evening.

I have no doubt that if this is approved this evening & once delivered, the new facility will have lasting benefits to all ages in Great Notley. Good quality outdoor facilities such as these in this current time of COVID impacts are essential for physical and mental wellbeing, and as such, this application has our full support.