

## Statement on behalf of WaldenTRI

**Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0000002** Former Friends 'School, Mount Pleasant Rd, Saffron Walden CB11 3EB

Sent via e-mail: [section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

24th May 2022

On behalf of WaldenTRI, please find the following statement regarding the above planning proposal.

The sale of the Friends School (ex Walden School) site to Chase New Homes was a significant loss to the WaldenTRI club and most importantly to the development of our junior triathletes (WJNR)\*.

For a period of eight years, these facilities, both the extensive playing fields and the pool, were used on a weekly basis for a period of three hours each Saturday and accommodated an ever increasing number of junior athletes. The playing fields were also used during the summer evenings as a base for the senior athletes training.

With the closure of the Friends School pool and with limited availability at the Lord Butler pool, only 30% members are able to train with the remainder receiving no swim training at all.

Sports facilities investment for Saffron Walden has declined and the area has been poorly served for many years. This situation has now been recognised and as such new sports facilities are contained in the current Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan.

UDC's 2019 sports facilities strategy highlighted the underinvestment across a number of sports facilities, including the lack of swimming capacity in the Saffron Walden area.

Provided there is a secure Community User Agreement, the club would welcome back the use of the refurbished pool proposed by Chase New Homes and eventually the use of the extensive playing fields for training purposes.

\*The current membership of the club is 200 junior athletes plus a waiting list and 100 senior athletes

Yours Faithfully

Derek Jones  
WaldenTRI

