

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 April 2022 13:51  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application 3/2022/0217 Chipping Football Pitches  
**Attachments:** RVBC Planning 320220217 Response.docx

  
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Our representations in response to planning application 3/2022/0217 are included in attached document and are also shown below.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Attention of Laura Eastwood  
RVBC Planning Dept

Re: Planning Application No: 3/2022/0217 - 40 commercial advertising boards on 2 sides of football pitch on Chipping Playing Field

We are writing to raise our objections to this planning application for the following reasons :-

- Chipping playing field is a community resource donated to Chipping Parish council in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for use by all residents of the village. The football pitches are used by Chipping Football Club but the whole area is used by village residents and visitors as a recreational space.
- Chipping is a very beautiful rural village in an area of outstanding natural beauty and is well cared for by its residents who take great pride in their surroundings. The proposed commercial advertising boards are not appropriate in such a rural village setting. In addition, since a great number of the Football Club members do not live in Chipping, it is highly unlikely that they share the same sense of pride in the village as the residents.
- There are no other large advertising boards in the village, in fact when a large advert for the new Fellside development was displayed on the Cobbled Corner café it was identified as inappropriate and very quickly removed. If permission were granted it would set a precedent for other village clubs & businesses to display large advertising boards.
- With or without permission from Chipping Parish Council, many highly visible changes have already been made to the field by Chipping Football Club over recent years - erection of fencing, erection of shelters, demolition of trees.

You also need to know that :-

- 10 commercial advertising boards were installed by Chipping Football Club in April 2021. When Chipping Parish Council members were alerted to this, they were totally unaware – it had been done without seeking permission or approval.
- The application states the boards would be on 2 adjacent sides of the pitch – this is inaccurate. The proposal is for boards on the 2 long sides of the pitch which are opposite each other.
- As far as we are aware, no open public session has been held for villagers to explore the proposals and give their opinions.

- As we had already expressed our concerns to Chipping Parish Council, we were invited to attend a meeting they were holding with the Football Club. No other residents of properties in the immediate vicinity of the field were invited. At that meeting, the chairperson of Chipping Parish Council was totally supportive of the proposals which it became apparent had already been discussed between the two parties.
- At the meeting mentioned in our previous point [REDACTED] of Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Football Club voiced his support of the proposals stating that commercial advertising was essential to that club. There is absolutely no comparison between a city rugby club with teams playing in Northern Premier leagues and our small village's football club.
- Also at that meeting, a suggestion was made that commercial advertising boards could be attached to the fence during matches only and removed at all other times. We would not have strong objections to this proposal, providing the boards were indeed removed as specified. The representatives of Chipping Football Club present at the meeting did not support this, saying it would take too much time and effort.
- We have no desire for Chipping Football Club to be unsuccessful and fully appreciate the opportunities it provides for young people to participate in sport in the outdoors. However we do not accept that selling commercial advertising space can be classed as fundraising, as was suggested to us by Chipping Parish Council. There are many clubs & societies in Chipping, it is a busy village – these clubs & societies raise funds from their membership fees and from holding fund-raising events in order to keep going. Since the membership of Chipping Football Club is so large, there must be opportunities to raise funds in other ways.

We ask that Ribble Valley Planning officers take our concerns and observations into consideration when discussing and making decisions on this application.