

MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Miss Marion Andrews

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Mr A Gillespie
Head of Area Development (West)
The Old Lace Mill

Dear Mr Gillespie,
Re: Merriott Sports Pavilion.

At a meeting in Merriott last week to consider the funding for this project, the Football Foundation advised us that they were prepared to give support at a very generous level in recognition of the huge benefit that will be gained for young people of the area from having a Sports Pavilion.

They made it very clear however, that the offer is dependant on a minimum of £12,500 further partnership funding coming from the principle local authorities of South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council, who they felt were not recognizing the strategic nature of this project.

The Football Foundation stated that the Merriott Parish Council funding of £20,000 (in excess of a year's precept) for a facility which will benefit very few Merriott residents is extremely generous in comparison. They have pointed out that Taunton Deane for example gave £50,000 (50% was 106 a contribution) to a similar development at Bishops Lydeard with only £3,000 from the Parish Council.

Cllr S Seal from South Somerset District Council made it clear at the meeting that funding is difficult. A suggestion was made to share the £12,500 deficit between the partners and there has been a tentative response via Lynda Pincombe.

At the last Merriott Parish Council meeting a proposal was put for a further contribution in addition to the £20,000 commitment and £3,000 demolition costs already made. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that it would be inappropriate to take more money from Merriott ratepayers for a project which mainly benefits those from outside of the village. The Merriott Parish Council decision is to request the required £12,500 funding as an equal share from Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council. With a further £6,250 from South Somerset District Council, Merriott Parish Council is still the most heavily committed.

JAW

Both of our ward members from the District Council and County Council were present at the meeting and were supportive and optimistic of a positive response to this request as it was agreed that the additional £12,500 could come from the 2010/11 budget.

Please consider this letter a formal request for further funding of £6,250.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Andrews