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London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Planning Department
Town Hall
King Street
London W6 9RU

11 January 2018

Dear Sirs

Planning application: 2017/04662/FUL

I am writing on behalf of The Fulham Supporters Trust (FST) to make representations in support of the above current planning application, lodged with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF) by Fulham Football Club (FFC), to demolish the existing Riverside Stand at Craven Cottage, and replace it with a new purpose built stand.

The FST is an accredited Supporters' Trust, constituted as a Community Benefit Society, and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Trust is completely independent of FFC. We are a membership organisation, with each member holding a share of equal value of the Trust, and our constitution details our support for Fulham Football Club to remain at its historic site at Craven Cottage, and to promote the Club as an active part of the local community. Our membership includes significant numbers of residents of LBHF. Prior to preparing this submission, the Trust has attended the exhibitions put on at Craven Cottage, spoken to residents, consulted our members and raised queries with both the Club and the scheme architects, to inform our views and provide a response on behalf of our membership.

The Trust believes that the plans submitted to LBHF accord with our organisation's aim of enhancing Fulham's continuing presence in Fulham and community involvement. Providing updated and relevant facilities to enable the Club to continue at its historic home, bringing an improved experience for spectators, providing tangible benefit to the wider community and creating facilities which will be welcomed by local residents on non-matchdays.

Craven Cottage is an architectural and sporting icon, recently voted amongst the most popular grounds for fans to visit. This is partly due to the combination of history, tradition and the setting, the likes of which is increasingly rare in professional football. The Grade II listing of both the Johnny Haynes Stand on Stevenage Road and the Craven Cottage pavilion demonstrate the historic and architectural value of the stadium. The proposed plans, which allow for the redevelopment of the current Riverside Stand, will enhance the ground whilst retaining the historic character of one of the most famous and intimate football stadiums in use today.

The new stand will significantly improve the look of the ground, and replace a tired and increasingly outdated stand with little architectural merit or historical interest. Aside from the visual improvements brought by the redevelopment of the stand, and the improved facilities for spectators that a new stand can provide, the new stand would also enable the Club to seek sustainable income that would, in turn, safeguard Craven Cottage's place as the home of Fulham Football Club into the future.

The FST also strongly supports the benefits to the local community, as well as the wider Fulham supporter diaspora, of an improved and redeveloped Riverside Stand. For example, the opening of the Riverside Walk and public realm enhancements to Bishops Park will benefit local residents, supporters and visitors alike, and has long been a point of frustration for many that the ability to walk alongside the Thames from Putney to Hammersmith has been restricted. As other recent developments have opened up river access on this stretch of the Thames, we believe that this should be the case for this proposal too. We also support the creation of new commercial space within the Riverside Stand which will breathe new life into this corner of the borough on matchdays and non-matchdays alike, providing much-needed amenity in this part of the Borough to a growing local population.

Having considered the documentation lodged with LBHF, and having interrogated the plans of the Club and their architects at public exhibitions, it is the view of the Trust that this application should be approved, as it is to the benefit of community and supporter base, as well as the Club. It will help ensure that Fulham Football Club can continue its long and proud association with the area, enabling an historic and architecturally significant stadium to be enhanced while continuing to host professional football to a high level.

The FST hopes and anticipates that the Planning Committee of LBHF will support the granting of permission for this important proposal at its next appropriate opportunity.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Greatrex', written in a cursive style.

Tom Greatrex

Chair, Fulham Supporters' Trust