

**Jim McMahon MP**  
**House of Commons**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0AA**

**Chief Executive**  
Oldham MBC  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG  
Tel: 0161 770 4190  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Jim McMahon MP,

**RE: Investing in West End Street Pitch, Coldhurst, Oldham**

I am writing to advise you that the Council at its recent meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025, approved the following amended motion, regarding investment in the street pitch, located at West End Street, Coldhurst, Oldham.

**Council Notes:**

- Coldhurst, like many working-class communities across the country, has suffered from years of national government austerity and underinvestment in youth and community sports infrastructure. Notably, the closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre and the loss of the adjoining play space reflect the wider challenges imposed by more than a decade of cuts to local government budgets.
- The pitch at West End Street, once a popular and well-used grassroots football and recreation space, has fallen into disrepair. The surface is cracked, drainage is poor, and markings are faded — making it unsafe and unfit for its intended use.
- Coldhurst Labour councillors — notably Cllr Abdul Jabbar and Cllr Abdul Malik — have worked consistently to highlight these challenges and advocate for improvements at West End Street, in close collaboration with local residents, volunteers and youth groups.
- That thanks to an intervention by Cllr Jabbar, the West End Street pitch was included in Oldham's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) agreed by Cabinet in March this year.
- In 2024–25, local volunteers, youth groups, and councillors — including longstanding Labour representatives — continued efforts to clean and reclaim the West End pitch. These actions build on work led by Coldhurst Labour councillors and Jim McMahon MP, who have been working on a masterplan to bring this asset back into full community use through the establishment of a community co-operative.

- The Council has endorsed £6 million as part of the first phase of a £70 million “SportsTown” regeneration programme, which includes:
  1. The Council administered a £5 million grant from the Government’s Community Regeneration Fund to develop a new 3G pitch at Little Wembley, a new educational centre at Boundary Park, and supporting community facilities.
  2. £1 million was invested for a new stitched pitch at Boundary Park and to secure a permanent base for Oldham Rugby League Football Club and enhanced community use.
  3. Public commitments that SportsTown will benefit community access borough-wide, including increased opportunities for education, health, and sport.
- These investments demonstrate the Council’s commitment to ensuring regeneration funding reaches communities like Coldhurst, building resilience and opportunity where it’s most needed.

#### **Council further notes:**

- That West End Street Pitch and associated changing rooms exist because of the work of Cllr Abdul Jabbar to secure a grant from Sports England and SRB1 in 1998.
- Both Cllr Malik and Cllr Jabbar have consistently raised the condition of West End Street pitch with officers and Cabinet colleagues and continue to explore opportunities for resources to improve the facility for the community.
- That in February 2025 all five of Oldham’s district community councils had the opportunity to input into Oldham’s Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) and there was unanimous agreement amongst elected members that West End St pitch is a vital community resource and must be protected and enhanced.
- That a community consultation day will be held over the future of West End Street pitch over the summer.

#### **Council Believes:**

- That open-access, local sports facilities such as West End Street pitch should continue to be fully explored as part of Oldham’s wider ambitions for health, youth development, and community regeneration.
- That the borough’s regeneration strategies must include local, ward-level opportunities for inclusive sport and recreation.
- That it is in the public interest for the Council to review existing leases, funding options, and strategic opportunities.
- That residents themselves should have a meaningful say in the use and future of these facilities, and that a community cooperative model should be explored for the West End Street pitch — governed by and for the people who use it.
- The current plan, devised by the Council, ward Councillors and supported by Jim McMahon MP to create a co-operative ownership model, will successfully bring this asset back into community use.

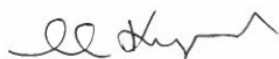
**Council Resolves to:**

1. Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.
2. Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will:
  - a. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of: West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)
  - b. Explore further opportunities to:
    - Consider how existing and future **government regeneration funding** streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality to West End Street Pitch.
    - Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport.
    - Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst.
3. Recognise and endorse the ongoing work of Cllrs Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Malik in championing improvements to West End Street, and the long-standing leadership of Jim McMahon MP in supporting regeneration for the Coldhurst community as Member of Parliament and now as a government minister.
4. Write to Jim McMahon MP to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank him for his efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and confirm what the government can do to support this.
5. Continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a community-led cooperative model to govern the use and programming of West End Street pitch — ensuring the space is managed with and for the local community.

Therefore, further to the resolution 4, above, I am writing to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank you for your efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and also to ask what further actions and or initiatives that the government can do to support this.

I look forward to being able to report back to Council with your reply.

Yours sincerely,



**Shelley Kipling**

Chief Executive

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