

ON YOUR MARKS AND SET TO ACT NOW!

The Crystal Palace Sports Partnership (CPSP) calls on the local community and users of the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre (NSC) to urgently make their voices heard on the future of the centre before the next round of advertised public engagements ends on 5th September.

Chairman, John Powell MBE commented:

“There have been many false starts, but it’s vital everyone actively participates in attending the workshops, focus groups, and fill in the survey in this latest NSC consultation.”

“It's yet another round of consultation on the future of Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, but anyone who cares needs to engage this time - or else!”

This was the stark message from the Crystal Palace Sports Partnership (CPSP) after the GLA announced the appointment of a new consultancy team who will at last put plans forward to determine the long term future of the centre, looking at all aspects including its overall uses, facilities, a detailed review of school and educational use, event functions, and what range of sporting and other complementary uses will form part of its future.

The Mayor of London (who owns the long term lease for all of the NSC grounds within Crystal Palace Park), is marketing this round of consultation under the banner "On your marks!". The work will seek to develop a sustainable plan that will need to integrate with Crystal Palace Park regeneration plans.

This follows GLA comments earlier this summer that the sporting footprint of the centre is likely to be reduced, and that the scale of the stadium is not widely supported to be retained as is.

CPSP are calling on everyone who has any cause to care about the future of the centre to take part in the online survey and a series of consultation events programmed for the coming weeks. Dates of further CPNSC consultation engagements due in a few weeks' time have yet to be released.

John Powell MBE commented: “We welcome the ‘On your Marks’ initiative by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, as it is formulating the process to plan the long term strategy for CPNSC.”

"What worries me immensely though is the absence of appropriate advanced marketing material. With barely a week to the first consultation event, no posters were on display anywhere in, or outside, of the centre to advertise this process and the workshops, a feature which will do nothing to abate the cynicism among some that this is all little more than lip service with an agenda already set. At the very least it questions the sincerity of this latest campaign.

"How this new vision gets delivered is also something we need to urgently look at, but this isn't being asked in the new GLA survey. An apparent lack of transition planning is now a major concern, with the centre not taking any bookings post-March 2020, especially given the likely scale of facilities being closed off, demolished, or re-configured during future phases of work."

"What will further perpetuate that mindset also is the fact that the previous consultants' (NAA) report has been classed as 'confidential' even in a heavily redacted version.

"It was promised in March, and we're now nudging September, which hardly does credit to all those people who engaged, let alone almost 15,000 who signed our petition!

"The fact also that early events of this new process have been scheduled for summer bank holiday week, frankly beggars belief with all the schools still off and a huge number of people still away."

To accompany the online questionnaire, there are engagement events are as follows:

- "Pop-up" events (August 24/25th)
- "Workshop" events (August 29/30th, and September 4/5th for coaches or clubs)
- "Focus groups" due in October

By the New Year the GLA state that they hope to have a clearer vision of the future of one of, historically, the most iconic sporting venues in Europe.

ENDS

Editors' notes:

Pop up events will be focusing on understanding current usage, existing assets, important values and key priorities. People can simply turn up.

Workshops will help inform the future plan for the CPNSC through a series of swift and discursive activities. Free registration via Eventbrite

The questionnaire and all the latest event details are here: <http://www.on-your-marks.co.uk>,

Follow all the latest news about CP NSC here: <https://cpsp2020.com/news/> and other future engagement events, and news from last sporting needs public consultation, as when the Mayor of London decides to share publically. CPSP also has started a petition to support a sustainable sporting and athletics future at Crystal Palace that is over 14,000 <https://www.change.org/p/save-athletics-and-sports-at-crystal-palace>

Follow on twitter: @CPSP2020

Email: media@CPSP2020.com

John Powell MBE, Chair of CPSP chair@cpsp2020.com

Mayor Of London Q&A replies in 2018 regarding CP NSC in 2018

http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/?order_by=

Date	Main question	Answer - The Mayor
19-Jul-2018	<p>Weekend opening hours at National Sport Centre Caroline Russell I have been informed by a constituent that the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre (NSC) is open until 5 pm at the weekend. Whereas the Copper Box Arena with similar facilities at the Olympic Park is open until 10 pm. Given that both facilities are managed by the leisure contractors of the GLA, Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) and that there is a shortage of multi-use sports halls with public access, will you look at extending the weekend opening hours at the NSC?</p>	<p>The Mayor I can confirm that the NSC at Crystal Palace is open until 5pm at weekends and that the current opening times are in accordance with existing contract terms with GLL. Although the cost of operating the NSC is considerable compared to the Copper Box Arena, I have asked GLA Officers to review weekend opening hours with GLL to determine if attendance numbers would increase enough to cover the cost of opening beyond 5pm</p>
17-May-2018	<p>National Sports Centre consultation (7) Caroline Russell The National Sports Centre (NSC) is a unique cross-border multi-sport and education campus with on-site classrooms, that makes it ideal for midweek daytime sports teaching. What are you doing to realise the unique benefits of this education and sports facility?</p>	<p>The Mayor I am committed to ensuring that the Crystal Palace NSC has a long term and sustainable future as a multi-sport venue. Feasibility work for the NSC to date has focussed on a sports facility needs assessment but will soon progress to more detailed feasibility and options appraisal. Understanding the requirements and opportunities for a range of sporting and other complementary uses will form part of the upcoming work.</p>

Date	Main question	Answer - The Mayor
17-May-2018	<p>National Sports Centre consultation (6) Caroline Russell In answer to my question 2018/0392 you said: "My Regeneration Team have been working closely with the CPSP [Crystal Palace Sports Partnership] to identify some of the evidence gaps in the previous study and to build a more detailed feasibility and options appraisal." I understand that one of the key gaps that was identified was the value of primary and secondary school use of this unique multi-sport and education campus. Could you a) list the schools that were individually contacted as part of this sporting needs review of current and latent usage, b) list which schools responded and provided evidence to the appointed consultants, and c) tell me which of these primary and secondary schools brought in the greatest revenue to the National Sports Centre (NSC)?</p>	<p>The Mayor The feasibility work on the NSC is a phased programme of work that began earlier this year. The first phase has focussed on gathering views on facility requirements from key sporting stakeholders, such as clubs, sports governing bodies and users of the centre. Engagement with individual schools was outside the scope of this phase of work, but engagement with bodies such as the London Schools Swimming Association has shown that they are very supportive of the NSC as a venue for meeting schools' National Curriculum learn to swim requirements. As the work progresses, there will be further engagement and consultation opportunities for more stakeholder groups. This will include a more detailed review of school and educational use of the sports facilities.</p>
17-May-2018	<p>Volleyball clubs - National Sports Centre Caroline Russell The Little Giants volleyball club have informed me that the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre (NSC) is the only facility in south London with multiple volleyball courts that have public access. Can you reassure Little Giants volleyball club and several other volleyball clubs that their requirements are being considered in your consultation/review and the multi-use sports hall they use will not be lost?</p>	<p>The Mayor The Crystal Palace NSC is home to a range of sports, offering participation opportunities for all abilities. I want to ensure that it has a long-term and sustainable future as a multi-sport venue. The ongoing feasibility work has been reviewing what facilities are required for the NSC to best support this vision. As part of this, a sporting facility needs assessment is underway, which has involved gathering views from key sporting stakeholders, including clubs, users of the centre and sports governing bodies, such as Volleyball England. Early findings show that the multi-use sports hall should be retained for the use of clubs and other centre users.</p>

Date	Main question	Answer - The Mayor
22-Feb-2018	<p>Crystal Palace redevelopment (1) Caroline Pidgeon A number of constituents have raised concerns about the Crystal Palace redevelopment consultation. Will you increase the promotion of this consultation going forward?</p>	<p>The Mayor As part of my commitment to ensuring that the Crystal Palace Sports Centre has a long term and sustainable future I have commissioned a sporting facility needs assessment study. This is the first study which is part of wider feasibility and options appraisal work taking place throughout the year. The first phase is focussing on gathering views from key sporting stakeholders, such as clubs, the sports governing bodies and users of the centre. As the work progresses, there will be further engagement and consultation opportunities for wider stakeholders, which will be well publicised.</p>
22-Feb-2018	<p>Crystal Palace redevelopment (2) Caroline Pidgeon Many constituents have stressed the need for the Crystal Palace site to retain the sports facilities it currently has. Will you commit to keeping and developing these facilities, rather than reducing them?</p>	<p>The Mayor The sports centre at Crystal Palace is an iconic venue with a rich sporting history. I want to ensure that it has a long-term and sustainable future as a multi-sport venue. I have commissioned a sporting facility needs assessment to better understand what scale and scope of sporting infrastructure is required in the future. This study is looking at supply and demand of sporting facilities in Crystal Palace and the wider South London area. The findings from this will help form part of the evidence baseline for a detailed feasibility and options appraisal.</p>
22-Feb-2018	<p>National Sports Centre consultation (1) Caroline Russell Over 12,000 people have signed an online petition (https://www.change.org/p/save-athletics-and-sports-at-crystal-palace) expressing their concerns that the GLA's consultation for repurposing the current National Sports Centre (NSC) at Crystal Palace is "way too short and has failed to identify and consider the needs and views of existing users." Furthermore, they believe that the impact of the proposals on "track and field in London, let alone other sports could be disastrous." What is your response to this petition?</p>	<p>The Mayor I want to ensure a sustainable future for the Crystal Palace Sports Centre. The online petition was started by the Crystal Palace Sports Partnership (CPSP) in 2014 in response to the consultation process for a piece of work commissioned under the last administration. My Regeneration Team have been working closely with the CPSP to identify some of the evidence gaps in the previous study and to build a more detailed feasibility and options appraisal. The first stage of work is ongoing and is focussing on gathering views from key sporting stakeholders, such as clubs, the sports governing bodies and users of the centre. As the work progresses, there will be further engagement and consultation opportunities.</p>

Date	Main question	Answer - The Mayor
22-Feb-2018	<p>National Sports Centre consultation (2) Caroline Russell How did you publicise the GLA's consultation on the National Sports Centre to the local community around Crystal Palace, and to the users of the sporting facilities?</p>	<p>The Mayor The first stage of the National Sports Centre review is underway and is focussing on gathering views from key sporting stakeholders, such as clubs, the sports governing bodies and users of the centre. My officers have worked with local stakeholders to promote engagement opportunities including attending meetings of the Crystal Palace Park Shadow Board, establishing a stakeholder advisory group, producing posters and flyers to advertise opportunities to engage in the NSC itself, and promoting opportunities on the GLA website and via newsletters. My Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe also wrote to all relevant MPs, ward councillors and Assembly Members. Officers have held a range of focus groups as well as drop in sessions which have helped capture the views of casual users of the centre. As the feasibility work begins, there will be further engagement and consultation opportunities.</p>
22-Feb-2018	<p>National Sports Centre consultation (3) Caroline Russell How have you assessed the health and wellbeing aspects of your proposals for the National Sports Centre?</p>	<p>The Mayor There are no proposals for the centre yet. The National Sports Centre (NSC) is an invaluable sporting and community asset and makes important contributions to the health and wellbeing of Londoners. A sustainable future for the NSC will help to secure and strengthen these outcomes</p>
22-Feb-2018	<p>National Sports Centre consultation (4) Caroline Russell What marketing budget was planned for the consultation work with Neil Allen Associates for public and stakeholder engagement as part of the consultation on the National Sports Centre?</p>	<p>The Mayor The total budget for the sporting facility review assessment being undertaken is £25K. My officers have worked with local clubs, organisations and sports governing bodies to promote engagement opportunities. A feasibility and options appraisal will provide further opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement later in 2018.</p>
22-Feb-2018	<p>National Sports Centre consultation (5) Caroline Russell What is your vision for major sports facilities in London that have wider or regional public value?</p>	<p>The Mayor The sports centre at Crystal Palace is an iconic venue with a rich sporting history. I recognise that it plays a strategic role for many sporting communities. I am keen to ensure that it has a long-term and sustainable future as a multi-sport venue. I have tasked my Regeneration Team with developing a strategy for the centre - in consultation with users and wider stakeholders - that will result in a new sporting vision.</p>

Date	Main question	Answer - The Mayor
22-Feb-2018	<p data-bbox="261 239 759 304">National Sports Centre - cost analysis of refurbishment vs total demolition</p> <p data-bbox="261 304 496 338">Caroline Russell</p> <p data-bbox="261 338 786 674">As part of the long-term National Sports Centre (NSC) review process, could you provide a detailed cost analysis comparing the cost of total demolition of the existing NSC stadium (including high level walkway, Jubilee Stand, indoor track and associated construction works) versus the cost of repair and refurbishment of the stadium?</p>	<p data-bbox="812 239 963 273">The Mayor</p> <p data-bbox="812 273 1430 439">Detailed feasibility work, including condition surveys, is needed before any costs relating to any options for the stadium can be estimated. This work will be undertaken in 2018 alongside wider consultation on the future of the facilities.</p>