

17th August 2009

Lord Triesman
Chairman
England 2018/2022 Bidding Nation Ltd
Wembley Stadium
PO Box 1966
London
SW1P 3EQ

Dear Lord Triesman

Nottingham's bid to host World Cup games in 2018/2022

Please find attached a letter I sent to the FA concerning Nottingham's bid to host World Cup games. I presume that this letter has been passed onto your organisation.

This letter was sent before the *Nottingham Evening Post* published details of the bid on July 16th, including a diagrammatic map of the proposed venues, which I presume forms part of Nottingham's bid. There are certain features shown on this map which require further comment:

- **TRAM:** The tram stop for the venues, including the proposed stadium, is shown as a river crossing, known to Nottingham residents as the old Toll Bridge. Not only has the tram line to be built but the proposed stop is three miles from the stadium, whereas the railway station is only two miles. I presume the proposers of the bid are not expecting football supporters to board the tram at the railway station only to travel a mile further away from the stadium. In practice, Trent Bridge, the City Ground, Meadow Lane and Colwick Park are more easily reached by walking from the station than from the proposed tram stop. I had assumed in my previous letter that a new tram line would be built directly serving the stadium, but I was wrong. In the current proposal the tram line is so far away as to be irrelevant.
- **FOURTH TRENT CROSSING:** A bridge is shown between the Colwick Park venue and site of the new stadium. This bridge is necessary to link the walkway on the north bank of the Trent to the stadium, but does not exist. It is unclear whether it is a road bridge or footbridge although, since it only goes to the stadium, I presume it is the latter. As I mentioned in my previous letter, the proposal for a fourth road bridge has been abandoned. A footbridge has been proposed but I believe Rushcliffe Council has turned this down, because of objections from the local yacht club.
- **WALKWAYS:** Cycleways and walkways are shown on the north and south banks of the River Trent, from the Toll Bridge to the proposed stadium. There is a footpath on the south bank but this would require considerable improvement, including widening, paving and lighting. There is no footpath on the north bank from near Trent Bridge to Colwick Park. To build a walkway would involve several properties, including industrial units which are built right up to the river, the Park Yacht Club, a new block of flats, a large private house (which stands right on the river) and a Sea Scouts' Hut. Policing these walkways, to keep rival fans apart, might also be an issue.
- **CYCLE STORAGE:** Since the proposal expects some spectators to cycle, I presume the detailed plan will include secure storage for cycles at the stadium. If only 2% of spectators cycle, storage for 1,000 bikes would be required.

- **RIVER BOATS:** The proposal suggests riverboats will link all elements of the World Cup Park. There are currently three riverboats available, all are ‘pleasure’ boats with total capacity of around 300 people and are not suitable for rapid embarkation. There are no high capacity commuter ferries. As far as I am aware, the only landing stages are at Trent Bridge and the Park Yacht Club. These might need expanding to cope with the numbers of passengers involved. All other stages will need building, which might require strengthening of the river banks at some of the proposed sites.
- **CAMPING:** The proposal expects some spectators to camp and two sites are shown, one at Colwick Park and one at Holme Pierrepont, using fields by the river. There are currently no facilities for camping at these sites. The plan shows a caption for ‘Holme Pierrepont Camping’, although this is currently a field used for grazing horses. There is an established site near the National Water Sports Centre, on the eastern side of the road from that shown on the map. However, this might disappear under the new development, depending on the exact site of the stadium. It might be worthwhile noting that this camping site has just been closed for a few days, due to water logging. All of the sites proposed get soggy during wet weather, with some having pools of standing water.

While I fully support the proposal for Nottingham to host World Cup games, the siting of the new stadium does the proposal a disservice. The location is entirely inappropriate due to the poor transport links. Even if the assumptions of new tramlines, walkways, river boats and a bridge are correct, the proposed stadium is isolated, a long way from the railway station and principal bus routes, with poor road links. The decision to base Nottingham’s proposal on a planned stadium at Holme Pierrepont regrettably represents a very high risk for your organisation.

If wishful thinking were a prime consideration for World Cup bids, we might stand a chance. However, I suspect this is not the case.

Yours sincerely

A Lady Bay Resident

Electronic copies of this letter to: FIELDS (local campaign group), Rt. Hon. K Clarke (MP for Rushcliffe), Councillor K Cutts (Nottinghamshire County Council), Councillors Cooper, Hemsley and Mallender (Rushcliffe Borough Council).