

**CHRIS LODER MP**



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th October 2020

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

As the Member of Parliament for West Dorset, I am very pleased to write in strong support of the Broadwindsor Cricket Club in their struggle to save their idyllic ground and with it the club – which looks towards its centenary in 2023, but may not survive to celebrate. In 2007, the ground was recognised by Wisden as one of the five most beautiful in rural England, and who can dispute that? To lose it would be a tragedy.

This cricket ground is a vital cog in the workings of this wonderful village, which in itself is one of the most lovely in West Dorset. It has a thriving pub, a superb community shop, the excellent primary school, craft centre and the Comrades' Hall, all of which contribute, along with open spaces like the cricket ground, to such a vibrant village.

Just when our emphasis on good health tells us we need them most, it is distressing to witness the demise of cricket grounds and other sporting facilities. There were 40 matches held last year, involving more than 400 players and it would be such a tragedy if this ground were to be lost.

I am encouraged by the dedication and commitment of the club members in seeking to raise the funds to buy the ground and put it into a trust so that it is preserved indefinitely for sporting purposes. I am hopeful that the owners will agree to a reasonable price, and as the local Member of Parliament, I am obviously open to doing anything I can to mediate a resolution and ensure the club's survival.

I wish the Club every success and I hope that they can receive the necessary funding enable them to safeguard their future for the generations to come.

*Chris Loder*

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