



Joint Supporters Group Statement – 28th February 2023

We are disappointed that details of 2023/24 Southend United season cards have been announced without consultation with the club's supporters.

Despite recent publicity around supporter engagement in the UK Government White Paper and the release of a supporter-led consultation yesterday, Southend United FC have clearly demonstrated they don't consider this important, regardless of the platitudes about the quality of our support contained within the club's announcement.

We all want to give our full support to Kevin Maher and his team. However, we struggle to think of a justification for proposed price increases to an adult season ticket of 15% at the early-bird rate, and almost 30% once that offer has expired in just four weeks' time. These increases are comfortably above the national inflation rate of 9%. This will be unpalatable to many supporters during a cost of living crisis, given that many of them remain deeply concerned about the appalling way in which the club is being run. Consultation may have borne out these opinions and prevented yet another public relations disaster for the club.

Our loyal support is being taken for granted and our quiet acceptance assumed. The supporters deserve to be engaged and communicated with rather than treated with disdain. Whilst the club chairman, Ron Martin, has indicated that he would be agreeable to a meeting with supporters' groups to discuss key issues in the club's short- and long-term future, the date for this has yet to be arranged. We urge him to commit to a date for this immediately.

As a consequence, we suggest that supporters delay the purchase of season tickets until the results of our consultation are known. The consultation runs until Friday 17th March and we will make a further statement as soon as possible thereafter and prior to the expiry of the early-bird offer.

In the mean-time, please participate in the survey to make your feelings known here: <https://forms.gle/AZA6eW9NCJF36e956>