



## Joint Supporters Group Statement – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Representatives of the supporters' groups of Southend United FC met with current football club owner Ron Martin and CEO Tom Lawrence last Friday morning, 24th March. We thank them for their time.**

Our recent stance on season cards was adopted to bring Mr. Martin to the table to answer questions and discuss our concerns about the future of the club.

The recent season card consultation supported this position, with 80% of 800 respondents advocating a delay to season card purchases. We would like to thank supporters for participating.

We remain concerned about the club's financial position, with obligations to non-playing staff, creditors and suppliers still outstanding. We also do not condone the size of the increase in season card prices, something which supporters clearly feel strongly about with just 7% of consultation respondents expecting an increase of more than 10%.

However, our call for clarity and answers to our questions was addressed to an extent with last Friday's two-hour meeting and we present here the questions asked of Ron Martin and Tom Lawrence in the meeting and the responses provided. It is also worth noting that the meeting took place against the backdrop of Mr. Martin declaring his intention to sell, or seek investment in, the football club and the submission of revised plans for the Fossetts Farm stadium development.

We believe supporters can now make a more informed decision as to whether purchasing a season card is right for them based on their opinions of the answers provided and their own personal circumstances.

Further to this, should supporters decide to purchase a 2023/24 season card, we encourage the use of a credit card where possible to provide added protection. We still consider the club's position to be precarious and unlikely to improve under the current ownership.