



Joint Supporters Group Statement – 18th July 2023

Representatives from the supporters' groups of Southend United met again on Monday 17th July to discuss the current situation at the Football Club.

We would like to thank everyone that attended the protest against the Club's current owner, Ron Martin, throughout the day on Saturday 15th July. Such responsible direct action has played a role in intensifying the pressure on the owner to sell our Club.

As things stand, Southend United FC remains under existential threat, with monies owed under a Winding-Up Petition and, crucially, all football creditors needing to be paid, together with the issuing of safety certification for Roots Hall, in order to meet National League requirements for a license to be maintained ahead of the 2023/24 season.

We strongly urge the current owner to take immediate steps to ensure the Club complies with the National League's regulations for the new season, and to engage fully with any parties interested in safeguarding the Club's future.

As a consequence of the continued uncertainty, the groups have agreed to undertake further direct action against Ron Martin, with another sensible and lawful demonstration planned to take place between 11:00am and 2:00pm on Saturday, 22nd July on the corner of Essex Way, Vicarage Hill and Benfleet Road.

Once again, we encourage supporters to bring placards, signs, posters and leaflets and make your feelings clear, but with a zero-tolerance policy on alcohol in effect. We must continue to make our voices heard as a 117-year-old community asset remains in perilous danger, and the groups will maintain constant dialogue over the coming days to attempt to ensure a brighter future lies ahead.