



## **Trust Statement – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Following the update provided by Southend-on-Sea City Council on Thursday 30th May 2024 about the ongoing process regarding the land transactions relevant to the takeover of Southend United Football Club, the Shrimpers Trust has remained in dialogue with relevant stakeholders.**

On Monday, together with representatives from the Southend Fan Protest Group and ShrimperZone, members of the Shrimpers Trust Board met with Daniel Cowan, the leader of Southend-on-Sea City Council, and Justin Rees, the head of COSU, the consortium seeking to acquire Southend United FC.

The Trust has subsequently met again with Daniel Cowan and remains in constant dialogue with Justin Rees. We are grateful for the time and attention committed by both parties. We have also noted the contents of the statements issued by COSU and Cllr Cowan on Friday 7th June.

Following our discussions with the Council, it is our belief that the proposed new deal is more viable and would be more likely to progress through the planning stage later in the process. As a result, we believe the Martin family should accept the offer put before them and additionally provide the requested security to COSU by the end of next week in order for COSU to continue funding the club.

We recognise COSU's frustrations at the pace of progress, and again express our gratitude for the patience they have shown to date, and the investment they have made in our football club to ensure its survival to this point.

We are mindful of the impending hearing on 26th June for the Winding Up Petition against the football club issued by Stewarts Law LLP. We know that supporters, too, are worried about the pace of the deal and some are keen to help move discussions on by protesting.

We do not believe this is currently in the best interests of a successful outcome and it is appropriate for parties to be given the space to manufacture a resolution during the next seven days, but if the Martin family are unable to provide an acceptable articulation as to why such a deal should not be agreed by this time, then direct action will be supported by the Trust.

Our silence during the past fortnight should not be mistaken for inaction. There is a real possibility that COSU will walk away - and who could blame them - if the Council and the Martins do not agree a deal by next Friday. The ramifications of this are what have been occupying us for some time; consequently although we believe today's announcement provides a potential pathway towards a positive conclusion to the current situation for the football club, the Shrimpers Trust are planning for every eventuality.

The never-ending cycle of doom is a mental torture on us all. If any supporters need help at this time, please consider contacting the below organisations and remember you are not alone:

**SECE Mind  
Livewell Southend  
Mind**

[www.secemind.org.uk](http://www.secemind.org.uk)  
[www.livewellsouthend.com](http://www.livewellsouthend.com)  
[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

The Shrimpers Trust Board.