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John Griffiths – Newport East 🗳

**May 2025**

To Whomever It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Newport Cricket Club's application for funding to install a stand-alone irrigation system at their facilities in Spytt Park, which is in my constituency of Newport East. As someone who has long been connected with the Club and has witnessed its remarkable contribution to our local sporting community, I was sorry to hear of the recent difficulties caused by the drought conditions we have experienced this year. It is particularly disheartening that such severe water shortages have disrupted the club's work so significantly, especially considering the dedication of the volunteers and the opportunities the club provides for young people in Newport.

The ongoing issue of low water pressure has caused severe disruption to the Club's operations. When the cricket pitch is being watered, the Clubhouse experiences a near total drop in water pressure and supply. This not only affects essential hygiene and kitchen operations, but also compromises the health and wellbeing of those who use the clubhouse; showers cannot be used, toilets do not refill, and basic hygiene standards become difficult – if not impossible – to maintain.

It is particularly disappointing that junior matches have had to be cancelled due to these water constraints. With 11 junior teams, the club plays a crucial role in encouraging participation in sport among local boys and girls. These cancellations, if continued, will deny young players the opportunity to take part in the sport that they love playing, and will diminish the Club's efforts to foster new talent and enjoyment among Newport's young people.

I fully support the club's intention to invest in the sustainability of their future. A stand-alone irrigation system (with a tank, pump and sprinklers), operating independently from the mains water supply is vital in resolving the current issues they are experiencing, but will also safeguard the club against the worsening impact of climate change, and the hotter and hotter summers which we will no doubt begin to experience in the coming years. It will allow grounds maintenance to be carried out more efficiently, prevent water waste, and remove pressure placed on volunteers managing the outdated and overstretched system which they are currently working with.

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This is an investment in the long-term health, growth and sustainability of grassroots sport in Newport. I am passionate about Newport being an active city, and people of all ages benefiting from the hard work and dedication put in by the volunteers who make our city's grassroots sport clubs so special. The prospect of young people in the city not being able to take part in sport due to outdated and ineffective systems is particularly worrying to me. Newport Cricket Club need the appropriate facilities to be able to continue their great work in Newport, and I sincerely hope that their grant application will be met with full support.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Griffiths MS

**John Griffiths – Member of Senedd for Newport East**