



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Rick Parry
Chairman
English Football League
EFL House
10-12 West Cliff
Preston
Lancashire PR1 8HU

16 July 2020

Charlton Athletic Football Club

I am writing to you with regard to the above club, which is located in the heart of my constituency. As you will know, it is a long-established club and one that is not only valued by its loyal fanbase but also the wider community largely as a result of the award-winning work it does within it.

You will of course be aware of the breakdown in relations that occurred between Charlton Athletic Football Club (CAFC) supporters and the club's previous owners. It was for that reason that many fans welcomed the club's sale in January to East Street Investments (ESI).

However, developments over recent months have led to growing alarm among CAFC supporters and many are now rightly concerned about the club's future. A great many questions remain unanswered regarding the club's ownership, the future intentions of the freeholder of the Valley and the Sparrows Lane training ground, the ESI consortium itself and the nature of the financial support that consortium has provided to cover CAFC's running costs.

The situation at Wigan Athletic serves only to highlight once again the risks involved in takeovers given the deficiencies in how English football is currently regulated. However, setting aside the need for a fan-led review of the existing regulatory regime to ensure that clubs are properly safeguarded, I would be grateful if you could:

- Update me as to what progress has been made with regard to the EFL's investigation into the takeover of CAFC by ESI in January and when you expect that investigation to conclude;
- Let me know when the EFL expects to make a decision with regard to its Owners and Directors Test and in relation to whether the present owner has sufficient funds; and
- Commit to greater transparency with CAFC supporters with regard to both of the above processes.

Matthew Pennycook MP

Member of Parliament for Greenwich and Woolwich

Telephone: 020 7219 6280 Email: matthew.pennycook.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.matthewpennycook.com



I am determined to ensure that what has happened at Wigan Athletic and Bury Football Clubs does not happen at CAFC and I am committed to doing everything I can to secure our club's long-term future. As you determine how best to resolve the issues of concern at CAFC, I urge you to have at the forefront of your mind the need to proactively engage supporters, primarily through the Charlton Athletic Supporters' Trust, in that effort and to ensure sanctions are targeted at those individuals who have acted improperly rather than the club itself.

I hope I can rely on you to treat this matter with the urgency and care it deserves and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Pennycook', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Pennycook