

From: clemepet@aol.com
Sent: 30 September 2015 16:13
To: maureen_kimbley@btinternet.com
Cc: suegill@btinternet.com
Subject: Bridge Centre project vote -- concerns

Dear Maureen (and Suzanne by copy),

Given you are Returning Officer for the initial county-wide vote on the Norfolk Bridge Centre project, I write to express my concerns about the potential for the vote result being swayed (either way) by NCBA members who may have little or no real interest/future stake in the Centre if and when it gets off the ground.

Some weeks ago, I sent Suzanne my personal feedback/comments on the project proposal and draft business plan (which she acknowledged), wherein my principal concerns are:

- 1) due to the "doughnut" geographic (and headcount) structure of Bridge in Norfolk i.e. Norwich clearly being the hub/centre but with a ring of smaller locations scattered around the county's periphery, there is no logic for the Centre being anywhere else but in the Norwich area
- 2) there is clearly some way to go to develop a viable financial plan -- which has sufficient "comfort factor" -- for the Centre
- 3) to achieve both (1) and (2) requires an almost-100% commitment from the clubs in the Norwich area to throw their lot in with the new Centre; without this, I cannot see the Centre ever being financially viable (whether leased or eventually purchased).

I therefore believe that the voting (at this stage) may well be flawed by the members outside the Norwich area being able to vote on a project which very few of them are ever likely to make any good use of; one could easily see these scenarios coming about [both of which could become very divisive within the county membership]:

a) Norwich voters vote for the project to proceed to the next stage, but the "periphery" votes against -- thus the Norwich players would be entitled to be rather aggrieved at possibly losing something they want

OR

b) Norwich voters vote against the project but the periphery votes for the project to proceed, creating a huge waste of time and effort by the steering group in a lost cause, by working-up the project in the face of non-interest from the members who will be critical to financial viability.

I suggest that the votes cast should be tallied and analysed to give clear figures for "Norwich", for "non-Norwich" and for "Total County" so as to allow an informed decision to be arrived-at at the AGM on 18 Oct when the vote results are presented.

I'm normally a 100+% democrat, but sometimes democracy needs to be tempered by common-sense! I would hate to see the county lose a promising development (which offers the chance of future revitalisation of Bridge in Norfolk) on the back of the votes of rather disinterested members.

Kind regards (and best wishes for your counting!),
Peter Clemens