



Sports Review – Minutes

Meeting at 10.00 a.m. Tuesday 6th June 2017 in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Tenterden.

Present:

TTC: Cllrs Mike Carter, Alan Sugden, Ken Mulholland.

Homewood School: Mark Seymour. Richard Grady (Design consultant)

Kent County Football Association: Darryl Haden

Sport Tenterden: Graham Smith

Ashford Borough Council: Cllr Paul Clokie (Chair) & Ben Moyle (Facility Development Mgr)

KCC Sports Development Unit: Chris Metherell

British Gymnastics: Carina Brown

Bethersden Tennis Club: Liz Robinson & Tom Carlton Bethersden

Lawn Tennis Association: Tudor Rowe

In attendance: Town Clerk, Phil Burgess (Minute taker).

1. Apologies for absence.

TTC: Cllr Roy Isworth

ABC: Cllr Mike Bennett.

KCC: Cllr Mike Hill, Jo Vos

Tenterden FC. Stuart Saunders

TLC: Craig King & Chris Cheesman

2. Appointment of New Members. None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. Agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes. All issues covered later in the minutes.

5. Football Provision (Appledore Rd Site). Graham Smith outlined the current position. He had looked at the proposed pavilion on the Appledore Rd site along with the FA and the facility is likely to be reduced by 2 rooms to 4 changing rooms. A football-only option has been considered as well as a joint facility with the gymnastics and/or boxing. Darryl Hayden said that in the event of a joint facility, the Football Foundation (FF) would fund only the football element. The FF are moving towards a framework for modular builds consistent across the schemes they fund.

The cost of the building & field conversion at Appledore Rd including car parks (100+ spaces) would amount to around £1.2m for the football only element. Graham Smith has had very positive discussions with Homewood School & the 25-year lease at this site will satisfy the funding bodies.

All pitches are within the Homewood land but the design is expandable into the Wates land, should that become available at a later date.

6. 3G Pitch at Homewood School. Richard Grady, the design consultant employed by Homewood, introduced the design options for the 3G pitch at Homewood. Ben Moyle of ABC was very keen that the pitch was of a minimum size to support local competitive adult football (90x45m). Richard Grady reported that a full-size pitch would have ended only 9 metres from the nearest residential property and pre-planning guidance had suggested this would not be approved. A second option (82mx50m) was likely to be approved but would not meet the requirement for competitive adult football. The third option (90 x 50m and 23m from residential dwellings) had not received pre-planning feedback as yet, but was likely to be acceptable and did meet the requirements for adult football. The site was close to parking and changing facilities.

Acoustic fencing would be erected to minimise the noise and although Chris Metherell suggested KCC planning generally required a 50m distance for lights from the nearest residential property, Richard Grady felt that the proposed clearance would be acceptable to ABC planning. Cllr Clokie preferred not to comment on planning issues as he is chair of planning at ABC. Chris Metherell suggested the designers should consider adjustable floodlighting which could be lowered during training matches. The current proposal has a capacity for reduced lux level. The cost for option 3 was £425K.

Ben Moyle advised that local league and cup matches would normally be held at weekends and weekday sessions are generally restricted to training sessions.

Homewood School are happy to prepare a draft Community Use Agreement (CUA) to safeguard the public access to the facility and to incorporate an undertaking to have the pitch inspected to achieve FA standards every 3 years. The usage by the school would end at 5pm on school days leaving evenings and weekends available for public use. Cllr. Clokie requested that the CUA should be agreed by TTC before planning goes ahead. Planning permission would request usage until 10 p.m. Monday-Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Chris Metherell suggested a lighting meter which switched lights off in sequence with the last one off by the time limit. This allows users to leave safely and keeps residents happy.

Pitch hire would be priced around £90-100 per hour match rate which is roughly in line with local facilities. The pitch can be divided into halves or thirds to allow smaller groups and lower cost hiring. A sinking fund would accommodate replacement of the pitch surface every 10 years and the pitch would be used exclusively for football. Funds would be earmarked purely for this purpose. Mark Seymour felt that the DFE would agree to the scheme.

7. Overall Football Provision.

Darryl Haden said that the Football Foundation (FF) was a funder of last resort and would expect other funding sources to be investigated. Funding could be up to 50% (more in some circumstances) but £500k per project maximum. It is possible that Homewood and Appledore could be treated as separate projects or as joint projects. Darryl Haden will discuss the preferred option with the FF. The FF is looking to grow football participation through grant provision and Tenterden participation had fallen greatly owing to lack of facilities. A good example of a recent application for funding is Hawkinge who were down to 1 team before their application for funding – they now have 20 teams. The club should have a football development plan and it should be prepared for the FF a.s.a.p. and could be done in parallel with other preparation. Planning needs to be in place before the funding application.

Cllr. Clokie requested that all the accurate costings and potential sources of funding should be investigated prior to the next meeting of the Sports Review. This was delegated to a sub-group involving Graham Smith, Cllr. Carter, Richard Grady, Mark Seymour & Darryl Haden. The chair asked the sub-group to report back to the full group in 6 weeks' time demonstrating a fully costed plan and the anticipated shortfall that may be requested from TTC or ABC.

8. Gymnastics Carina Brown gave a report suggesting that potentially 1000 children per week would benefit from a new facility, with many children on the waiting list already. The 10m proposed height for the building is only required for trampolines and 6m is sufficient for all other gym activities. Gym and swimming have been shown to be “gateway” sports which encourage young children to move into additional sports later. A focus on freestyle gymnastics has helped tackle anti-social behaviour problems and children often become young leaders or move into coaching. The Maidstone facility grew from 300 to 1600 users per week with a new facility. Ben Moyle pointed out that although local authorities cannot fund businesses such as Kestrels directly, the facilities can be provided and hired out to sporting businesses. Usage of the facility would be likely for 12 hours per day 7 days per week. Graham Smith presented a plan from for a gymnastics facility at the Appledore Rd site sharing changing and social facilities with the football clubs. Graham said that the rental income from the gymnastics club for the facility might be in the region of £60-70K p.a. It had also been suggested that that TLC might provide an extension to house gymnastics exclusively but Ben Moyle informed the meeting that this was not his understanding of TLC's proposals and the subject should not be discussed in the absence of TLCT or Serco representation.

9. Boxing The training boxing ring would remain set up most days in function room. Any additional facilities would be assembled and dismantled as required.

10. Tennis Bethersden club has grown to 400 members (around 80 drawn from the Tenterden area) in the village and now exceeds court capacity. The ideal situation in Tenterden (which would attract better funding) is a floodlit 4-courts arrangement with 2 dedicated tennis courts and the other courts as MUGAs to accommodate basketball and netball. The preferred position would be nearer TLC. Bethersden courts are all hard court. Clay courts or their artificial equivalent are not required. Tudor Rowe reported that the Lawn Tennis Association will be launching a capital investment program during the Eastbourne Aegon tournament and will be working more closely with local organisations to look at what can be done to grow tennis in a sustainable way. In particular to make tennis available year-round by using floodlighting and indoor projects. A roadshow will commence early September to showcase the funding available.

11. Ashford Borough Council Sports Strategy Reports. Ben Moyle advised that the Playing Pitch and Indoor Built facilities reports are now in draft form and out for consultation. Anyone wishing to comment can do so on ABC's website until the end of June. These reports demonstrate the current and future demand for facilities in the area and indicate to potential funders the demand, which will be generated as a result of growing population for new facilities for football, tennis, gymnastics, boxing etc. Tenterden's potential football, gymnastics boxing projects are named specifically in the report which will boost funding applications.

12. AOB. None

13. Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 18th July at 10a.m.