



Sports Review – Minutes

Meeting at 10.00 a.m. Wednesday 25th October 2017 in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Tenterden.

Present:

TTC: Cllrs Mike Carter, Alan Sugden, Ken Mulholland & Justin Nelson.

Tenterden Leisure Centre (TLC): Craig King.

Sport Tenterden: Graham Smith

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

KCC Sports Development Unit: Chris Metherell

Kestrels Gymnastics: Gary Crawford, Kloe Crawford.

Residents: Robyn Reeves

Community Warden & director at Tenterden Schools Trust: Jo Vos

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

1. Apologies for absence.

TTC: Cllr Roy Isworth

KCC: Cllr Mike Hill

Tenterden FC. Stuart Saunders

TLC: Chris Cheesman

Homewood School: Mark seymour

Tennis: Tom Carlton

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Agreed.

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

4. Football provision. Currently both the ATP and the Recreation ground pitch are a suitable size for local league football. The size of the recreation ground pitch is sufficient for their current league status and they would need to gain 3 promotions to require a higher level pitch *currently*. TTC advice has indicated that Sport England would insist on a larger *grass* pitch as a replacement for the recreation ground pitch. The ATP may be considered as a replacement but there is no guarantee of that until the case is put to Sport England.

Paul Clokie stated that the original question facing us was the ATP and the provision of grass pitches on the Appledore Rd site under a 25-year lease from Homewood. This lease offer has now been retracted by Homewood as they have signed an agreement with Wates as per their letter to the Town Council.

The Sports review should recommend to TTC that land should be procured in or near the town to allow the required grass pitch provision and replace the pitch on the Recreation ground if the ATP is not acceptable to Sport England as a replacement. Once the Borough Local Plan is agreed, land will be easier to acquire. Graham Smith pointed out that pitches further out of town would hit more planning obstacles. The Appledore Rd option should still however be pursued in tandem with the land search.

No 'break clause' of any kind would not be acceptable to the Football Foundation as a funder. As such the only way the FF would fund Appledore Rd is if the landowner Homewood were the applicant for the FF grant. Were future development to occur then the FF would expect clawback of their funding or seamless replacement to an equal or better standard. A community use agreement would be a minimum requirement with a football development plan and these options can be discussed with Homewood School.

Jo Vos felt there was still scope to explore a resolution with Homewood. Cllrs Nelson and Carter agreed that this should be pursued in a further meeting with Homewood with a sub-group of the Sports Review.

The meeting delegated responsibility for discussions with Homewood to Cllrs Carter, Nelson, & Sugden. The Town Clerk and Graham Smith would also attend. Paul Clokie was keen to point out that no commitments should be made to Homewood.

Graham Smith advised that the proposal to build pavilion on the right-hand field has already been put to Homewood and was not agreed at that time but should be revisited.

In the long term, more land is likely to be needed as the Wates proposals (even if this development is built out) are only likely to satisfy the need generated by TENT1. The advice received from the Head of Planning at ABC was that the Wates planning application was likely to be rejected and there limited chances of it succeeding on appeal.

Ben Moyle stated that the ATP is in the playing pitch strategy and ABC would like to deliver it. However, ABC members would be unlikely to approve the use of all the S106 monies towards the ATP and TTC would similarly oppose this since the main requirement for both the footballers and the Town Council is for further grass pitches and a clubhouse. The ATP in isolation is of limited interest to the footballers and therefore TTC. Since Homewood is likely to enjoy around 40% of the ATP pitch usage they would be expected to contribute *at least* 40% of the cost.

Graham Smith pointed out that the original requirement from the footballers had been for grass pitches only.

Chris Metherell requested some planning guidance in writing to Homewood for their consideration. He also felt that Sport England would be likely to agree that the ATP would be acceptable as a replacement for the recreation ground pitch.

Should the ATP go ahead, the responsibility for maintenance must remain with Homewood School, as manager of the site and beneficiary of income derived and not pass to TTC. The maintenance fees being shared between Homewood and the sinking fund derived from user fees.

Paul Clokie re-iterated the ABC position that the Wates application would not be considered before 2030.

5. Plans at the Leisure Centre.

- The plans for the proposed development have been the subject of pre-application advice
- Discussions are in hand with Serco re proposals for managing the operation during and after the proposed development
- Discussions are in hand with ABC regarding funding of the proposed development
- Supporting grants are being sought to make the project viable - £75K from Trust with match funding from ABC and TTC and an external grant fund possibly providing up to £40K.
- Much to be finalised. Assuming viability the project would require approval at Trust's November meeting and ABC's December Council meeting.
- Trust members attend the Recreation Ground focus group meetings
- Work would ideally start in 2018 subject to all parties agreeing terms.

6. Gymnastics Provision. Gary Crawford reported that the Kestrels had a waiting list of 300. If the proper facility were available with a full height roof for trampolining, an extra 600 people would be attracted to Tenterden with the consequent secondary spend. He is also hoping to introduce parkour (free running) and a climbing wall.

7. Tennis. Mike Carter raised the Tennis club's request for 4 courts (2 dedicated and 2 within a large MUGA). Chris Metherell advised that the LTA will not contribute as much to MUGAs as dedicated tennis courts. The MUGA surface needs to be porous tarmac for Tennis purposes.

8. AOB. The Boxing Club now secured a lease at the property to the rear of the old "Your Move" premises (to the side of the Millennium Gardens).

9. Date of Next Meeting. Weds 29th November at 10 a.m. to report back on the Homewood situation. The next meeting would be dedicated to the football situation.