BOLLP BREIFING NOTE – BARTON PARK SPORTS PITCH & PHOENIX ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY

The Barton Park development will provide a brand new pavilion designed by an award-wining architect, a new adult pitch, an all-weather 3G pitch, a multi-use games area, and new parking facilities, to replace the previous facilities that existed on the development site.



The clubs were originally advised that they would be off site for a minimum of one season, however the football pitch and sports pavilion will not be ready to be handed back for community use until Q2 2018, meaning the clubs will have to be located off site for two seasons. This delay has been due to very difficult ground conditions, third party delays from utility companies and the weather dependant nature of the works.

Programme of works

Early spring 2017 – earthworks for the sports pitch and pavilion site

Spring 2017 – seeding adult pitch

Summer 2017 – pavilion construction commences

Summer 2017 – spring 2018 – sports pitch establishment period

Spring 2018 – pavilion completed

Q2 2018 – pavilion and adult sports pitch available for community use

Quarterly meetings will be scheduled with PSA to update, the first being 22nd February 2017.

Until the pavilion and sports pitches are formally handed over, they will remain fenced off as a construction site, therefore it will not be possible to use the pitch informally during the establishment period. This will help to improve the long term quality and robustness of the grass pitches.



Mitigation Measures

OCC leisure team have confirmed that both clubs can remain at their current off site locations for another season and will continue to work with the relevant site stakeholders to ensure long term sustainability for both clubs. BOLLP recognise that this second season off site does cause some significant issues for the clubs and therefore are working hard with OCC leisure team and the clubs to mitigate the impact of these.

Below is a summary of the main concerns coming from the clubs and how these are being addressed.

Headington Amateurs FC:

1. The club had concerns about the amount of time it takes to put up and take down the temporary pitch barrier at Horspath.

OCC & BOLLP have supported the club by purchasing a container which has now been placed directly adjacent to the pitch, this is specifically for storage for Headington Amateurs FC. We are also working with the OCC Parks Team to come up with further solutions to further help the club.

2. The club are concerned that the ground they have relocated to does not meet the league's requirements and they may be forced out of the league as they only had an agreement to use this site on a temporary basis.

OCC have contacted the league and will continue to offer on-going support in negotiations with the league to ensure the club can remain.

3. The club have concerns about the quality of the playing surface at Horspath, in particular the mole hills which are taking a long time to clear before games.

OCC have been working with the OCC Parks team who maintain the site to come up with both short and long term solutions for this issue. In the short term the parks team have re arranged their on-going maintenance schedule to attend closer to a match day to alleviate some of the issues with mole hills and the quality of the pitch. We will continue to work with the parks team to identify a long term solution and will feed this back to the club.

4. The club is concerned that they have suffered a sharp drop in revenues from sales of refreshments & inability to host social & fund raising events.

Full details have been requested as to the quantum of revenue lost. Financial support from BOLLP may be available and will be addressed at the meeting on the 22nd Feb.

Barton United FC:

1. The club are concerned about the same financial disadvantages as per HAFC above.

Full details have been requested as to the quantum of revenue lost. Financial support from BOLLP may be available and will be addressed at the meeting on the 22nd Feb.

2. Not having a base to work from or a place of focus for the clubs to keep people interested.

OCC & BOLLP have been working with the club to identify possible links to the Barton Neighbourhood Centre for events, however we appreciate that this will be an on-going concern until the club are back at the new site.

3. The club are having difficulty keeping contact with all their teams.

OCC & BOLLP can provide some support to the club on communication methods and support in general development of the club

4. The club is concerned that there is no guarantee that the adult teams can play at the grounds they are currently using for another season.

OCC & BOLLP will work closely with the clubs to identify suitable sites where needed. OCC are already supporting all the teams in securing suitable locations. The Sport & Physical Activity Team at OCC will take a leading role in brokering and developing relationships with the key site stakeholders.

OCC & BOLLP have already provided significant support to Phoenix Sports Association as follows –

- £3,500 allocation for support from local ward member budgets (Mobile goalposts at Bayards Hill School)
- Paid £13,134 for a new set of dugouts, temporary pitch barrier and storage container at Horspath for use by Headington Amateurs FC including the installation costs (jointly funded between OCC & BOLLP).
- Negotiated for a shipping container from CA Blackwell to be used for storage at Bayards Hill School.
- Storage at BNC since May 2016
- Support the submission of two temporary events notices to the licensing team to make sure they could hold summer fundraisers
- Production of temporary signage for Barton United to use at Bayards Hill School.