

Summary of the Newmarket Road Sports Hub Taskforce Meeting held on 6th December 2023 via Teams.

Present: Craig Mulhall and Andy Wilkinson (MCL Leisure), Brenda Kibblewhite (This Land), Tony Cornwell (Burwell Football Club), Liz Swift, Paul Webb, and Michael Swift (Burwell Parish Council).

Craig Mulhall reported that he had met with Duncan Jenkinson (Football Foundation) and Katie Critchley from the Cambs. Football Association and gave them an update of the general vibe from the public meeting held on 1st November 2023. Duncan Jenkinson and Katie Critchley were delighted to hear that the land offer through the Section 106 Agreement has been accepted by the Parish Council. The Local Football Development Plan is due to be discussed in December. The involvement of Joe Cherrington, Football Foundation Technical Advisor at upcoming meetings is a positive sign that the project will be moved forward.

Details on how the Sports Hub will be managed and operated needs to be decided, along with who would be applying for funding etc. This needs to be set out in a document (maximum of two A4 sides). Sports England would be looking for tenure of the site being at least 21 years. The Football Club would like to have a reasonable length of tenure and level of management to satisfy some of their proposed funders. Michael Swift expressed that we would probably be looking towards a partnership, with the land being leased to the Football Club. With other sports being able to take place there.

Liz Swift asked if there is a timeline available for handing over the land and when could a formal offer letter be expected? Brenda Kibblewhite explained that there is a need for the facility mix to be agreed prior to the formal offer being made, as information on drainage requirements for the pitches will have to be taken into account. The Football Association will need to know the status of the offer and some assumptions probably need to be made on the mix in readiness for the meeting later this month. Craig Mulhall explained that he is working on the basis that the facility will include a full size 3G pitch, grass pitches and initially changing rooms. A small kitchen area could be added and potentially a social area. A gym facility will not come under the scope of any funding application to the Football Association or Football Foundation. Craig Mulhall to make the Football Foundations and Football Association know that we are working on the facility mix. Brenda Kibblewhite informed those present that she needed the involvement of This Land's Development Manager, Khalid Shanan and that he would not be available until after Christmas. An Agronomist would also need to be involved. Tony Cornwell suggested that the site may need to be split into sections/phases. Liz Swift reiterated the need for the facility to be used by sports other than football. Brenda Kibblewhite, Craig Mulhall, and Andy Wilkinson agreed that they would meet in the new year when Khalid Shaban was available.

Andy Wilkinson reported that he has liaised with Charlie Milner at the Sports Centre and that he intended to meet with him when he is next in the area. The estimated cost to build a 4-court sports centre according to Sport England is now in the region of £2.8 million. Andy Wilkinson suggested that an option may be to extend the existing sports centre to allow for a gym/fitness suite to be provided. However, this is unlikely to be possible as the County Council is unable to offer anymore land for an extension to be built on.

The following was agreed:

- A face-to-face meeting of the Taskforce to be convened for January. On the same day a meeting to be arranged with Charlie Milner (Burwell Sports Centre) with Andy Wilkinson, Craig Mulhall, and members of the Taskforce from the Parish Council.

- Brenda Kibblewhite, Craig Mulhall, and Andy Wilkinson to go through suggested plans prior to Christmas with further discussions taking place as soon as Khalim Shaban is available.
- Craig Mulhall to let the Football Foundation and Football Association know that they are working on the facility mix.
- Craig Mulhall to update the Taskforce after the Local Football Development Plan meeting has taken place.
- Parish Council and Football Club to discuss options available for the management, organisation of the Sports Hub. Any recommendation will need to be put to Council for approval. It will take considerable time for this document to be drawn up.

Tony Cornwell reported that the Football Club has started to work on raising the profile of the club. It was suggested by Craig Mulhall that the Parish Council may wish to talk to Cambourne Football Club about how that has been set up as it is a similar scenario as Burwell. It was noted however that the Cambourne Football Club and facilities are about 4 times the size as Burwell's.

The cost of running the proposed facility was mentioned, with the need to bring in between £40,000 and £50,000 annually to cover the costs annually plus a sum of money to build a sink fund for future works. It is expected that a commercial agreement between the Parish Council and Football Club will need to be in place.