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BATTLE BAPTIST FOOTBALL CLUB



Tuesday 15th May'18 – 10.30 am in the Manna House

Present: Colin Povey (Chair), Gary Walsh, Annette Buswell (Step Up Sports), Paul Saunders (Sussex FA), Keveena Mosen (Sussex FA). Andy Garlick (notes).

Purpose of the meeting

To get the FA's advice & support for the Club's plans for the future, including:

- developing Battle Rec in partnership with Battle Town Council, including plans for a new pavilion;
- progressing to County football;
- support for Football Funding to realise those plans.

Agenda & key docs

1. BBFC current position and plans for the future (BBFC) – 2 docs: Governance + Football Development
2. Bid to funders for new pavilion and clubroom (BBFC/County FA) – 5 docs– 3 Pavilion plans + Arial View + Funding Plans
3. Current County FA priorities (County FA)
4. Next steps/visit to Battle Recreation Ground

After introducing each other (roles & responsibilities).....

The story so far

Colin & Annette updated Paul & Keveena on the "story so far" by summarising the information in the pack e-mailed to Paul on 11th May.

Paul explained that there are 2 elements to football funding:

- Facilities – FA work with Craig Lowe, who will review the Pavilion specification;
- Pitch – FA Ground Grading Team, who will review the football pitch.

FA advice on football funding

The FA and funders look at the value of a project in terms of whose needs its meeting, so the broader the football development plan, the better.

Key issues

Does the project:

- **develop football & increase participation in Sussex?** Eg youth, women's football, walking football? (Promotion itself for a Club may not be of sufficient value to local football/Sussex FA). The FA will need to see evidence of such development – eg an increase in youth football or youth footballers becoming adult footballers. The FA noted BBFC's potential partnership with Sporting Club/Pass+Move. It will be beneficial that BBFC progress that partnership;

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- **lead to a significant improvement in facilities?** BBFC and BTC need to have a report showing that there is no point in upgrading the current building as it will not last for at least 21 years. It would be useful to have a short report from the architect highlighting previous discussions with BTC on this issue & also showing the current costs of lighting, heating, maintaining, insuring the pavilion including major repairs. This information would support the case for a new build.
- **meet the current Playing Fields Strategy of Rother District Council?** (Battle Rec is referred to in the RDC Strategy, as identified by Annette).

Football funding will also require clubs to have a security of tenure on their pitch for 21 years? Paul noted that Battle Town Council are fronting bids for the Battle Rec project – in effect, therefore, making it a joint application between BTC & BBFC.

Keveena advised that our Football Development Plan should be set out as per the FA Charter Standard Club template.

Plans for County football

Gary updated Paul & Keveena on plans to join the Mid Sussex Football League & the exchange of communications on how & when to apply.

Paul advised:

- the FA now have the power to make lateral movements with clubs - to make it geographically easier for teams to play games;
- the FA are now looking for local league champions to move up the football ladder, subject to meeting ground grading requirements;
- that BBFC look at Southern Combination FL & MSFL constitutions (available from the end of May'18), to see which route is more attractive;
- that Step 6 & higher levels would require floodlighting. All SCFL clubs have floodlighting. Annette made Paul aware that: RDC has a strict policy in rural areas; BTC have acknowledged that floodlights are in BBFC Development Plan;
- that there are practical problems with the process & timescales which Clubs have to follow to achieve County football as planning has to be based on potential performance, which may not be realised;
- Section 106 Funding may be available via RDC if new housing developments are built in the area (eg Blackfriars & Tollgates);
- that BBFC/BTC have to show we/they have exhausted all other funding options;
- that he is not aware of any local funding networks who can advise us.

Overall, Paul added that:

- BBFC have to be clear about what we want to achieve – playing higher football? Football development? Both?
- It would be beneficial for BBFC to have plans in place to develop its youth football over the next 5 years;
- BBFC need to decide which route it would take into County football.

We reassured Paul that Annette has been through Football funding requirements to identify what funding is possible - for what expenditure, & also as to when it is available.

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Site visit to Battle Rec

We all visited Battle Rec so Paul & Keveena could take an initial look at the Pavilion plus adult & youth pitches.

Paul:

- advised that the new leveled youth pitch, as planned by BTC, should be as large as possible to enable BBFC under 15s to play on it. It is advisable that a Club has all its team play at one facility;
- also noted that the current Pavilion would not meet FA requirements.

Next Steps – Actions

- **Paul** to arrange for Craig Lowe to review the Pavilion plans.
- **Keveena** to e-mail Annette the FA Football Development Plan template.
- **Annette** to use the FA FDP template, which then needs to be annually updated.
- **BTC** to ask RDC for a clear view on whether floodlights can ever be installed at Battle Rec.
- **Annette (or Andy?)** to ask Carol H/BTC to consult with the Architect to provide evidence:
 - on the life expectancy of the Pavilion;
 - the running costs of upgrading & maintaining the current Pavilion over the next 21 years;
 - as to whether the current external structure of the Pavilion can allow the planned new internal/FA approved layout within it?
- **Gary** to review the constitutions of the SCFL & MSFL to determine which route into County football BBFC should take.
- **Andy** to e-mail Carol H/BTC with:
 - a suggested date for the next Battle Rec Working Group meeting;
 - Paul's advice on, & reasons for, the size of the new leveled youth team pitch.

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