

Recreation Ground Working Group

Tuesday 27th March'18 – 10.30 am in Manna House

Present:

Battle Town Council – Cllr Glenna Favell (Chair), Carol Harris (notes)

Battle Health Pathway: Sue Burton (Battle Health Pathway)

Battle Baptist Football Club - Colin Povey, Gary Walsh, Andy Garlick (notes)

Step-Up Sports Consultancy – Annette Buswell

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 30th November'17
3. Review of current position
4. Actions to take project forward
5. Finances
6. Working together
7. Date of next meeting

1. Apologies – Cllr Jill Gyngell

2. Minutes of meeting on 30th November 2017 - previously agreed by correspondence and noted.

3. Review of current position

Cllr Favell confirmed that Council had agreed £20k for 3 years for the joint project: Health Pathway, Pavilion (changing facilities, clubroom and toilets) and Café. It was noted that the architect drawings for the Pavilion rebuild had been received. GF reported that fundraising by BHP for the community contribution of 10% is going well. It was confirmed that the maintenance of the football pitch is not part of the project.

4. Actions to take project forward

Annette Buswell reported that the pavilion design meets the requirements in principle.

Recommended actions:

- planning application to be submitted for the Pavilion work;
- 3 separate specifications for the BHP and 2 elements of the Pavilion
- 3 costs for each specification via the tender process

5. Finances

The BHP and Pavilion Cafe require different funding from the Football element of the Pavilion:

- Football Foundation funding will only fund the Football element as a last resort:
 - Capital funding from BTC;
 - Football Stadia & Football Foundation funding for BBFC progressing to Step 7 & Step 6 County football;
- BHP & Pavilion funding may come from Lottery;

AB confirmed that there are no absolute guarantees of funding, but Football Funding is likely dependent on a future plan to include the possible addressing of the following items:

- Pitch is fine for Step 7 football, but (removable) perimeter fencing required;
- Step 6:

- pitch widening;
- floodlighting;
- covered, seated stand.

It was highlighted that:

- It is a year-by-year process – eg Clubs can have one year in Step 7 to get Step 7 facilities in place, and one year in Step 6 to get Step 6 facilities in place.
- If the Club was in Step 6, but didn't get Step 6 facilities in place, it would go down to Step 7.
- The Council would need to agree the plan in principle.
- Rother restrictions on floodlighting may change over time.
- Another key issue – youth development and transition to adult football. (AG meeting with Sporting Club on 16th April to explore this.)
- The Club needs FA support so they can recommend BBFC for Football Foundation funding.
- FA needs to decide if there is a strategic football need for BBFC plans.
- AB/BBFC are drafting the Club's Development and Facilities Plan.
- FA, BBFC & RGWG need to meet to agree BBFC Development Plan - AG to arrange this meeting with Paul Saunders (FA Development Manager) – 10.30 am, Tues 24th April in Manna House (a possible meeting at Battle Rec may be required beforehand)

SB reported that a community contribution of 10% is aimed for; £9,700 currently achieved. She advised that some funders are more interested in one part of the project for various reasons eg cycle skills area as being a more easily achievable cost (c£40k). Some sources require times and where other funds will be obtained. AB suggested that SB take forward the cycle skills area and that she will help with Health Pathway funding plans.

AB agreed to provide an updated funding application timetable.

The Clerk was asked to:

- oversee specifications and tendering process, liaising with Architect;
- ask for 2 specifications for Pavilion – one for modular and one for traditional structures;
- ask Architect to include eco-friendly materials & structures.

It was agreed that the group should meet to discuss tenders received.

AB left the meeting at this point.

6. Working Together

Changes to latest Pavilion Plan

- Retitle to "Club room": extend inner wall to doorway, so players don't go on carpeted area
- The Clerk to explore possibility of widening Club room so overall footprint is a complete oblong including outside ramp area. (This may not be possible due to Tennis courts or RDC planning restrictions).
- Changing rooms: Shower cubicles rather than open showers, ensuring 4 shower heads.
- Café WCs – gender neutral WCs with basins.
- Disabled accessible doors – eg ramp, opening mechanisms.

Meeting Annette's costs

CP referred to Annette's estimated costings:

- Pavilion related cost - £1145 (Cafe & Football elements) – some of this may be reclaimed via Funding applications;
- BHP - £1050.

BBFC confirmed contributions to Pitch renovation and maintenance costs. They had also paid for Football specific work carried out by AB:

- foundation work to ensure progress towards grant applications;
- paperwork to support grant applications – ie Governance docs, Football Funding plans, Club constitution.

It was noted that BBFC fundraise in a different way to BHP – eg via sponsorship and use of the Legacy gift (almost used up).

BBFC agreed to:

- pay AB costs relating to the April meeting with the FA;
- share AB costs with BTC for shared funding meetings.

Other matters:

- suggestions of how to acknowledge high donors to the joint BHP/Pavilion project to be brought to the next meeting.
- SB circulated a new flyer publicising the BHP, including its new website.
- SB publicised a fund-raising quiz on Friday 6th April.
- BHP to consider Rother Community Fund for the Cycle skills area
- The possibility of using soil from the widening of the pitch to assist with the Levelling of the Junior football pitch was discussed. It was felt that this is unlikely to be possible due to time and cost restraints. AG to advise the Clerk of measurements required for investigation into options.
- Environment Committee to agree to fund specifications and tender costs

7. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 24 April at 10.30am in Manna House (following site introduction with the FA)