

## Fit for Battle - informal meeting for BTC representatives

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Present

Carol Harris, Jill Gyngell, Glenna Favell

### Further discussion of some of the issues raised by Step Up Sports Consultancy regarding the café

Our comments are in purple:

*Will it clash with High Street?*

No - it is felt that the Rec is away from the High Street and the clientele are different. **Agreed**

*Maybe offer a franchise with local cafe?*

It is suggested that a franchise is advertised (need to find out how much it may be worth) **Agreed**. It was felt that a short franchise should be offered initially, so that the café could be taken back in-house if necessary.

*Hours of opening and closing each week?*

BTC to provide a specification outlining core times each week they would anticipate the café to be open, which can be open to further discussion with interested parties during the franchise selection process. **Agreed**

*Eco/green policy? (no plastic wrapping, single use cups and cutlery, healthy snacks, fair trade coffee)*

This was considered to be important to Council so, it was addressed in the original business plan. This can be part of BTC's specification, giving the applicants the option to provide the minimum or to embrace this more fully. This will then be for further discussion with interested parties during the franchise selection process. **It was noted that this would increase costs and therefore prices, but BTC policies would need to be adhered to.**

*Costs of food and drink*

This would be up to the franchisee, so BTC will be unable to influence prices, though pricing could be discussed within the franchise selection process. **It was felt that prices should not be too low as it raises an issue of unfair competition and it would not be good if prices had to be increased if prices were set too low.**

*Need a business plan for the cafe.*

It was noted that BTC will not be taking the financial risk if the café is franchised. **Agreed. BTC needs to be able to break even if BTC has to take it back in-house.**

### Question from Step Up Sports Consultancy regarding gender neutral toilets

Step Up Sports Consultancy(SUSC) has questioned whether we may have to redesign for the pavilion café in light of an article in The Times, which suggested that gender neutral lavatories have to provide separate cubicles for men and women. It was felt that the planned self-contained cubicles (each with WC and washbasin) provided privacy for users.

**Issues raised by Step Up Sports Consultancy regarding funding**

Following the last Fit for Battle meeting, SUSC has contacted us regarding risks to the project in preparation for discussions with the Football Foundation:

Sport England is currently not open for local authorities, (only voluntary sector under Covid) so this might be a large gap in the potential income.

A document has since been received that lists the goals for 2021/22 that includes:

● INTRODUCTION ● OUR GOALS FOR THIS YEAR ● PROGRESSING THE BIG ISSUES ● INCOME AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2021-22

**SPORT ENGLAND UNITING THE MOVEMENT**

**OUR GOALS FOR THIS YEAR**

**PLAN: IMPLEMENTING OUR STRATEGY CONTINUED**



**INVESTMENT INTO FOOTBALL AND MULTI-SPORT COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Deliver community football facilities in acknowledgement of the reach and popularity of football with our priority groups.

Of this work, a percentage will be focused on delivering football-led multi-sport community facilities, so that other sports can benefit from our investment. We'll target our funding at the areas of greatest need where our investment will have the biggest impact.

**HOW WE'LL DO IT:**

We'll deliver a multi-million pound investment into community football facilities, including small-sided facilities, through the Football Foundation, and together with our partners the Premier League, The FA, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and various stakeholders.

This investment will aim to deliver a new multi-sport approach, acknowledging that football is the most popular team sport, but facilities have more impact in a community where several sports and activities can be played.

**CROSS-GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE AND ADVOCACY**

Influence and advocate for the power of movement, ensuring it's at the heart of the government's work and central to future decision-making.

**HOW WE'LL DO IT:**

We'll advocate for the role of movement, sport and physical activity in government programmes, policy and ongoing reforms, e.g. prevention, education recovery, planning reforms; and lay the groundwork to embed advocacy as a core pillar in our strategy long term.

**CONTINUED**



**We'll focus on supporting community sports facilities through their Covid-19 recovery.**



**ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS**  
Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

**THIS YEAR,** we'll focus on supporting community sports facilities through their Covid-19 recovery, while also maximising outdoor opportunities to be active through partners such as the National Trust, Forestry England and the Canal & River Trust. We'll also build the blocks needed to support wider active environments work in the longer term, i.e. strengthening our relationships with cross-sector strategic partners.

**POSITIVE EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.**

**THIS YEAR,** we'll help children and young people recover and return to the activities they love, have missed or have taken up and want to continue. We're supporting schools with the return of school sport in the summer term, reactivating club-based and structured activities, as well as providing non-traditional PE lessons for girls with our Studio You digital library. We'll also lay the foundations for future work by developing a greater understanding of what it takes to encourage certain groups of children and young people to be more active, through our Active Lives Children and Young People Survey and further research.



CIL funding still has no timeline for when that funding could be accessed:

It was felt that BTC should move forward on this - please see suggestions for discussion below.

## VAT

If the Pavilion was not registered for VAT under an 'option to tax' scheme, it would mean that the capital project costs would increase by a further £129,000 to cover VAT.

It was felt that BTC should move forward on this - please see suggestions for discussion below.

## Exploration of options

In preparation for the meeting with the Football Foundation, fall-back scenarios should be considered:

\* redesign without the clubroom to cut costs (clubroom not required at the next stage for clubs promotion, but is for the level after that). Loss of clubroom affects potential sport England funding.

\* redesign without a sit in cafe, reducing costs

It was agreed that this would not be good for BTFC or the Rec users as it is the clubroom and café that will draw people into sports and leisure activities.

## Financial matters

SUSC very loosely estimated that the loss of the clubroom would mean a reduction to approx £429,000 cost rather than £643,000 as the building size is roughly estimated as two thirds for the changing and clubroom and a third for the café.

It is felt that there should be no reduction in specification because it would not only reduce the community facilities that have been asked for by residents and visitors, but also reduce BTC's ambitions of improving mental and physical health within the community. BTC could not justify spending such large sums of money purely on changing facilities.

Assuming no VAT is payable on the building costs, that the total build cost will be approximately £700,000, including professional fees, based on the tender.

It was felt that BTFC could be asked to fund-raise in a similar way to BHP to demonstrate their support for the project.

There has been an increase in the range of sports available in Battle due to the improvements at the Rec. The Pavilion will provide facilities that will last for many years to come and the project fits in with RDC's objectives for sport and leisure. It is noted that one of the reasons why a football pitch cannot be provided at Coronation Gardens is the lack of changing facilities. As the Pavilion will benefit residents from villages around Battle, it is felt that BTC should consider funding the project from Local CIL receipts and also apply to RDC for funding from Strategic CIL funds.

Using SUPC's estimates, the following funding model could be used if agreed by BTC:

£158,500	Football Foundation
£30,000	BTC (from previous budgets, but some funds used for professional fees, reports etc)
<i>(£30,000</i>	<i>RDC grants (BTFC could apply to RDC Community Fund for stand-alone item))</i>
£50,000	Football Stadia Fund if BTFC are promoted
<i>£unkown</i>	<i>Sport England (if a suitable scheme reopens post-Covid pandemic)</i>
£100,000	Battle Local CIL
£400,000	RDC Strategic CIL

## **Suggestions for consideration by the Environment Committee**

It is suggested that:

An Option to Tax for the Pavilion is submitted as soon as possible.

Council is asked to consider allocating £100,000 from Local CIL funds towards the project.

Council makes an application to RDC for £400,000 Strategic CIL funding

A business plan is produced to assure Council that a café will not run at a financial loss should it be necessary to take the running in-house.

Agrees SUSC's fee of £225 to prepare a Sport England Stage 1 bid, should a suitable fund open.

## **Pass & Move Proposal**

It was felt that some of the responses to the proposal that were received from BTFC were unreasonable. The club has a 10-year agreement with BTC to use the football pitch on Saturdays and Wednesday evenings as primary users of the facility.

BTC has been aware that BTFC had plans for additional pitch usage in order to be able to apply for the FF funding for the Pavilion (for example, for walking football, junior teams, women's team and a team for people with disabilities). The club had planned it out to avoid any over-usage that would have a detrimental affect on the pitches.

BTC should perhaps take into account any pitch maintenance agreements and the need for BTFC's vital contribution to accessing potential funding for the Pavilion when considering the Pass & Move request. However, Pass & Move have mentioned the need to avoid over-use in their proposal and they would be providing a wonderful opportunity to young people, enabling them to achieve a worthwhile qualification through a practical course.