

## Planning for Sport in Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon

Draft notes from the Working Group meeting at Council Offices, Harrogate, 5.30pm,  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Present:

Mark Taylor (Pannal Sport FC and JFC)  
John McGivern (Sports Development, HBC)  
Lynne Garne (Harrogate District Sports Council)  
Paul Ashfield (Harrogate Racquets Club)  
Alec Porter (Rugby Football Union)  
Brian Forshaw (Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club)  
Dave Sykes (Planning Policy, HBC)  
Rachael Hutton (Planning Policy, HBC)  
Patrick Kilburn (Parks, HBC)  
Cllr Pat Marsh (HBC)  
Cllr Pat Jones (HBC)  
Andrew Wadsworth (West Riding Football Association)  
Richard Irving (on behalf of Ripon City Football Club)

Apologies:

Gordon Renton (Knaresborough Lions/Renaissance Knaresborough)  
Damien Smith (Harrogate Schools Sport Partnership)  
Sue Dennison (Ripon City Football Club)  
Alan Williams (Harrogate Town Football Club)

Minutes of Meeting:

The minutes from the 1<sup>st</sup> March stated that the Rugby Club are exploring the possibility of moving to land at Harrogate High School. This is just an idea being floated and they are not actively pursuing it at the moment.

The minutes from the 1<sup>st</sup> March noted that there was “*general support of the group given to a multi-sport complex with the Harrogate High School/Claro Road /Kingsley Drive area identified as having potential for such a complex.*” The group did offer support for the idea of a multi-sport complex but did not offer support to the Kingsley Drive etc area being the only option. The potential of the area was discussed but other sites were not ruled out.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Option 6 – Search for Alternative Locations**

The absence of information relating to the history of the previous HDLP allocation at Crimple Valley (AAP20) was raised.

***Action: When this is reported again, more detail about the history of the HDLP Crimple Valley allocation will be added to the paper as well as information relating to the site size of sites already presented.***

The possibility of site visits was raised.

The Rugby Club raised three sites that they think should be looked at again in more detail. These are Moorlands Farm, Killinghall, Bilton Triangle and Leeds Road.

The issue of deliverability was raised as an important decision making factor. Concern was expressed that landowners would not release sites for sports development because of the hope value of housing, particularly because many of the sites have been put forward in the LDF as possible housing sites. Need to make sure that sites are achievable.

Deliverability issues can be flagged up but shouldn't rule out a site completely. At the moment, HBC are looking at how sites score in terms of planning such as accessibility, sustainability, environmental impact etc but deliverability will be brought into the next stage of site assessment.

In terms of planning obligations, need to make sure we are flexible and maybe not require as much affordable housing for example for a housing site if they are prepared to provide some land for sports provision.

There is a need to move the search for alternative locations forward by prioritising sites however we must be careful about the criteria we use so as not to rule out smaller sites that may satisfy some smaller club requirements.

Discussion took place about short listing sites for the next stage of assessment. Land opposite AAP21 and AAP8, AAP11 were mentioned. However it was agreed that the following action would take place.

***Action: Group members report back to RH by 9<sup>th</sup> July with details of any other site that needs looking at that has not been detailed before and any sites that should be prioritised***

There was discussion about exactly how much land would be needed to be allocated. There is evidence in the Playing Pitch Strategy and also provided by the sports clubs but need to summarise the land needed in terms of pitches, area etc before the group feel they are able to examine site options.

***Action: For the next meeting, summarise the amount of land needed in terms of no's of pitches, area etc***

The following sites were suggested before the meeting which should be looked at in more detail:

- Close to AAP45, Knaresborough, right hand side of the quarry – large flat area between the track and lake (to be restored)
- Horseshoe Field, Cohnyham Hall. Used to be sports pitches but problems with the bridge meant that the pitches could not be maintained properly. The bridge has now been reinstated but fields will require a lot of work to bring them back into sports use as they are now overgrown.

There was discussion about the need to canvas more opinion from some of the other sports.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Option 2 – Community use of school facilities – draft questionnaire**

Support was expressed for the questionnaire but the following action points are necessary.

***Action:***

- ***Need to point out the opportunities available e.g increased revenue to the schools in the covering letter.***
- ***Add a question about what aspirations the school may have in terms of additional facilities***
- ***Add 'Floodlighting' to Question 2 Outdoor facilities and 'Changing Facilities' to the Outdoor and Indoor section.***

- **Question 5 and 6 should read “if you answered .... to Question 4” instead of 3” ’**
- **Add a question that provides some assessment of quality particularly for their pitches.**

### **Agenda Item 6 – Option 7 – Sports facilities on The Stray**

Patrick Kilburn presented a paper which showed the present use of the Stray and discussed the opportunities available to increase the pitch provision by 4 or 5.

The key constraint on The Stray is the availability of changing rooms and car parking. The Council are exploring ways of improving parking on The Stray after having installed under surface matting, however this is mainly for parking for the fair and circus etc. not general parking for football.

It was confirmed that changing facilities are not needed for junior pitches so it was agreed that any new pitches would be for junior use. This would not cause such a problem in terms of drainage either as junior use does not cause the wear and tear that senior football does. However the key issue then was car parking and it was agreed this does need resolving.

Suggestion to look at the possibility of using St Aidens car park for additional car parking Sat and Sundays and Lynne Garne volunteered to raise this with the Head.

Patrick Kilburn also confirmed that Parks (HBC) are in the process of allocating pitches to clubs on a 3 –4 year allocation rather than annually.

### **Agenda Item 7 National and regional planning context**

Explanation that this paper gave a useful background to the planning policies and highlighted the options for new planning policy in the Sites and Policies DPD.

***Action : Produce for the next meeting a paper detailing progress so far and the way forward for all the options.***

### **Future Meetings**

No date was set but Tuesday seems to be a good day.