

BEVERSBROOK SPORTS FACILITIES PROJECT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 1998 Calne was identified in a survey of North Wiltshire District as having a shortfall of 26 acres of recreational space according to the National Playing Fields Association criteria. The North Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy 2001-2007 gives details of the criteria (p36) and goes on to recommend that 3 Senior football pitches and 2 junior rugby pitches should be provided (p61). The population of the town has grown since 1998 from 12,000 to 13,500 and the need for additional recreation space has grown accordingly. The Calne Cricket club and the Calne Rugby Club have been involved in a great deal of youth development work recently and the need for more, and better, pitches has been highlighted.
- 1.2 In 2002 the Town Council acquired 92 acres of redundant farm land at Beversbrook, on the northern outskirts of the town, alongside a new bypass that was opened in 2000. On the opposite side of the bypass is the new housing estate that has accounted for most of the population growth of Calne in the past 5 years. Allotments have already been constructed at this site and the concept is to provide sports pitches for football, rugby and cricket, together with changing rooms, incorporating a social area and car parking.

2. THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The scheme is proposed to be a multi-sport facility on land owned by Calne Town Council at Beversbrook. The plan is for two full size football pitches, one cricket pitch, 1 rugby pitch, together with 2 junior football pitches and 3 small sided soccer pitches. An eight room changing facility is planned to incorporate a social area which will be capable of being partitioned to provide smaller meeting rooms for theory football training, referee training sessions and committee meetings as well as social events. A car park is planned within the site, although it is anticipated that most people from Calne will walk, cycle or use public transport to access the site. The car park will primarily be for visiting teams to use.
- 2.2 The entire scheme will cost £1.75M and detailed costs can be found in the accompanying copy of the Football Foundation bid document. The detailed planning application is currently with the NWDC Planning Department. Calne Town Council has already spent £230,000 purchasing the land and has ring-fenced a further £600,000 for construction of the facility. North Wiltshire District Council has pledged £50,000 from Area Committee 5 community funding and a bid has been made to the Football Foundation (lottery funding) for £900,000.
- 2.3 A community donation scheme was launched at the end of January, aimed at individual residents, businesses and community organisations in Calne, to assist in raising the £200,000 shortfall to complete the facility, and £7,000 has already

been raised. A bid was made to the Harris Trust, who have pledged £1,000 and requested that we apply to the Trust again once we know whether the Football Foundation bid has been successful. Written confirmation is awaited from a large international company operating in Calne that they will award a substantial amount 'in kind' for building materials for the changing facility. Once this is received, a bid for matching funding can be made to Sportsmatch, an organisation that match funds, £1 for £1, anything that is raised from businesses. A further two small businesses in Calne have also pledged 'in kind' contributions for signage and plant hire. It is not possible at the moment to quantify the value of these contributions.

- 2.4 The need for a facility such as is proposed at Beversbrook has been highlighted through consultation in the community, with local football, cricket and rugby clubs as well as through the Calne Community Planning process. Calne Town Council has shown its commitment to the scheme through its Policy Plan adopted in February 2005. All documentation regarding consultation can be found in the accompanying copy of the Football Foundation bid.
- 2.5 A Draft Sports Partnership Protocol has been drawn up between Springfields School, the John Bentley School and Calne Town Council. This outlines how the three parties will work together to promote each others sports facilities and to work with the sports groups in the community. A copy of the draft is attached to this paper and it is anticipated that the Protocol will be adopted by all parties by October 2006. Such a partnership will be vital in securing the successful future of sport for all in Calne and the Community Area. This group will also be able to work together with other sports clubs and groups in the area to provide additional facilities at Beversbrook, with the eventual aim of becoming what is known as a 'Hub Club' for the provision of sport.
- 2.6 Letters have been written to all the Parish Councils in Community Area 5 to request their written support as well as to find out what the need for sports facilities is within the Parish Council areas. Sports teams from the Parish Council areas will be able to access the Beversbrook facilities. The input of the entire Community Area will be essential to the growth of the facility over time to incorporate other sports, both majority and minority. This information will hopefully be available by the beginning of October and will be passed to NWDC as well as to the Football Foundation.
- 2.7 The provision of this multi sports facility is seen as part of the continuing regeneration of Calne following the demise of the Harris factory in the 1980's. Current sports provision in Calne is very fragmented and too small to allow people in Calne, particularly young people, to play team sports in Calne for their Town. This facility will assist in bringing forward the community cohesion and pride in Calne that has, apparently, all but disappeared in the last 20 years. Furthermore, the population of Calne has grown in the last 10 years to its current level of 13,500. With Calne having been identified as being 26 acres short of

recreational land nearly 10 years ago, the need for larger sports facilities on a single site has become more acute with the passage of time.

- 2.8 Whilst Calne Town Council is quietly confident that the Football Foundation funding bid will succeed, in the event that it is not, a phased plan will be drawn up to ensure that the facility is provided even though it will probably have to be phased over a period of 10 years. The Town Council is committed to providing this facility no matter how long it takes to raise the funding. It is proposed that the facility, when completed, will be managed and maintained by Calne Town Council. A Manager/Football Development Officer will be appointed and will work at the site. Revenue funding for three years for this post has been requested from the Football Foundation as part of the overall bid.
- 2.8 Details of the project have been passed to the Wiltshire & Swindon Sport Activity Partnership (WASP), although it is recognised that at this early stage of the project there is little that they can give other than written support, as the organisation does not have capital funding available. However, once the facility is up and running, WASP will no doubt be delighted to assist in embedding the facility within the overall strategy for sports provision in Wiltshire. Ms Bev Maull, Girls Football Co-ordinator at WASP, is fully aware of the work that has been done on the Football Foundation bid, and the Wiltshire County Football Association has been fully involved since the beginning of the process.

3. **CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Beversbrook Sports facility is desperately needed by the people of Calne. In particular, young people should be able to play team sports for their Town so as to engender civic pride in their home town. This facility will provide a 'home' for their team sports as well as providing young people from the entire Community Area 5 with opportunities for an active, healthy lifestyle leading to an active, healthy adulthood. Calne Town Council hopes that North Wiltshire District Council will feel able to support this project by contributing a further £50,000 from central capital funding. Any such funding will be recognised in any publicity about the project.