

LACOCK PARISH COUNCIL :Lacock Community Sports Pavilion Project

Summary of Feedback from the Public Consultation held on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th August in the National Trust Manor Room. Present : LABOX Architectural Practice and at various times all members of the Lacock Parish Council.

The public consultation consisted of eight display boards which informed visitors of the process followed, and **the recommendations** arising from meetings and discussion with a wide range of village based user groups. These recommendations were presented in the form of three building development options and the construction of an exercise track on which comments were sought, these being :

1. The development of the existing sports pavilion within the boundaries of its leasehold site
2. The development of the existing sports pavilion to incorporate user group recommendations and to meet Sport England's funding criteria; this extending the site into adjoining gardens
3. New build on the south and eastern corner of the adjoining Red Lion/Residents car park.
4. Exercise track with fixed equipment constructed to follow the perimeter of the Ground.

The boards were configured as an exhibition, on show for two days, during which meetings with village organisations, user groups, representatives of funding bodies, and the National Trust were scheduled; followed by an afternoon and evening viewing open to all villagers and the general public. Either through discussion with the architects, or the council members visitors were requested to identify their preferred development option/s and to either make comment, or record in writing, their recommendations to the project team. Notice of the event was given in

- The Parish Magazine
- The Parish Web Site
- A printed flyer circulated with post across most of the Parish

The meetings of the project team with village organisations, regional and national representatives of funding groups and the National Trust sought to test if the proposals on show incorporated their earlier guidance. Advice on which design configuration would best serve their needs and those of the wider community was also sought. More than 100 visitors, mostly village residents, volunteers or staff of the National Trust then visited the Exhibition between 2pm and 8pm on Thursday 13th September, the large majority of whom were very positive about the opportunity to visit and comment on the project.

All of the user group meetings and many of the individual visitors from the village noted the high quality and professionalism of the exhibition and the work undertaken. The Parish Council's leadership was commended for what was described by two regional organisations, and one national body, as a model of good practice. Four representatives asked for electronic copies of the exhibition panels to circulate within their own organisations. Members of the Parish Council were

in attendance throughout and regularly received comments of appreciation of the work undertaken to provide a facility for the benefit of residents.

Feedback and comments from user groups included:

From Regional Sports Development Mangers and CEO Regional Sport England (Lottery)

“ Option 3, the new build in the Red Lion Car Park, and bordering the field, along with the perimeter exercise track are the only sustainable options likely to be supported through capital funding applications”

“A portfolio of funding applications will need to be constructed to combine the elements of public health, education, sport, and the interests of the National Trust. The coordination of this funding profile could be supported by Wiltshire Council”

“Land value for the preferred site can be counted towards matched funding as can the time of Parish Councillors involved. The Parish Council should lead the development project”

From Lacock Evergreens;

“Option 3 and the perimeter exercise track are the options supported as they provided for all ages and user groups; and the needs of the village school could be met.”

“The opportunity to establish a village social club is warmly welcomed, this is a missing part of village life, and would be a much needed replacement for the former working men’s club”.

“Keeping the primary school in the village is important to us”

From Lacock Primary School Governors;

“the development options now presented are particularly helpful to the School as they provide a framework through which the Governors priorities can be defined in partnership with the Church, the National Trust and the Parish Council”

“an important and timely opportunity to move ahead with our own agenda for change which is currently focussed on an improved OFSTED rating”

“Option 3(new build) and the perimeter exercise track are the options supported as they provide for a range of ages and could be designed to accommodate the specific needs of the School”

“Needs to be a building as close as possible to the main school building and no further than the Red Lion Car Park. Requires careful consideration to ensure accessibility in all weathers as well as safety”

“An additional classroom sized space adjoining the studio gym if included would maximise use of both internal and external based curriculum opportunities and could also provide for Children’s holiday clubs run by the School”

From Lacock Cricket Club, FC Lacock and Luxor Saint Andrews Football Club;

Option 3(new build) on the corner of the car park and at the intersection of cricket and football pitches was unanimously supported as providing appropriate facilities for the modern era as those existing were no longer fit for purpose....also

“The studio gym will support training throughout the year and improve both player recruitment and retention”

“The addition of a social club is much welcomed as local pubs are primarily tourist destinations and restaurants”

The existing pavilion would be far better used as a secure equipment store”

From National Trust Managers;

“ The proposed development represents an opportunity for mutual benefit where outcomes could evidence the value of the Sport England and NT partnership project “ (now operating at NT properties across the Country)

“the list of matters provided by the NT needs to be considered by the Parish Council ASAP as it represents a framework for progress”

“an early meeting with NT officers responsible for capital development proposals should be sought”

“security of tenure in the form of a long term lease on land provided by the NT will satisfy a key criteria for capital funding grants”

“new build would represent a real advantage to the PC as VAT can be reclaimed

Written feedback and comments from visitors included;

During the period the Exhibition was open to the public visitors were encouraged to leave written comments on post-it notes on each panel; to write in a comments book, or make observations to PC members, or the project architects who were present to explain the process. It was made clear that all comments would remain anonymous.

“ Fully support this project, well thought out concept and will be a great asset to the community and village “

“The new build option is the best one to include other groups in sport like the scouts “

“I think that the walking/running track around the outside of the playing field with various exercise equipment at stages will be beneficial to old and young alike”.

“ Not all organisations in the village have been consulted....why not the history group”

“ Excellent idea, long overdue”

“This project would be a huge asset to the village which has lagged behind in its provision for its community for many years”

“ Whilst the new build option is best are you aware of the main drains work due to be undertaken on that site in 2 months’ time ?”

“Exciting possibilities, I’m particularly keen that this new build provides better facilities for the School (and that their needs are at last met) as well as the wider community”

“ I feel that the National Trust has missed an opportunity, to provide for the needs of the children of the village, and to create a social hub”

“ the new build is an obvious choice and I hope that the National Trust will go along with the sensible choice and also work with Sport England to help with finance”

“I am pleased to see the enthusiasm for such a creative and exciting development proposal especially with the explanation from the architect of how it was perceived. This development is exciting because although Lacock is a historic National Trust village it also needs to keep up with the times and with this it can blend the past with the future”

“I am a firm believer in opportunity and this would give youngsters and villages the potential of enhancing village life. It will help to develop more community spirit.”

“How will it be paid for ? How can the necessary money be raised?”

“The changing rooms need to be large enough for the largest team and their kit. Players have large bags these days and the existing changing rooms can only accommodate half a team. A new facility needs to be four times bigger than now”

“I like the existing building; it speaks of village cricket even if it’s too small and a mess”

“ A skittle alley would be a great idea as the village team now plays in Melksham”

“A balcony looking over the sports ground would be a great idea”

“Please include a wall where team photos can be displayed”

“You are doing sterling work so I do hope that this comes to fruition”

Conclusion

In order to meet the funding criteria as defined by Sport England and to accommodate key recommendations from user groups, this development has moved from an adult sport provision to a “sport for all” concept in support of the community of our distinctive National Trust village and its large international and UK visitor numbers. In doing so it has increased in both size and cost. The overwhelming opinion of those who attended the two day consultation process favour the new build option on the south east corner of the Residents/Red Lion Car Park, combined with the perimeter exercise track and its equipment. The Parish Council accepts that recommendation and considers that the detailed comments, some of which are recorded here, provides sufficient evidence of the wide public support it requires to move the project forward to its next stage. That next stage would involve the production of a revised architectural brief, an appropriate building design agreed with the National Trust, consultation with conservation and planning authorities and the production of a business plan on which to base grant applications. However the Parish Council also recognises that it can not progress this significant community development any further unless its preferred development site on the south eastern corner of the adjoining car park is made available by the National Trust.

Appendix

Because of the opportunity provided for residents to comment without restriction a number of more generic matters which may be of interest to the PC and the NT were raised by members of the public with the project architects. These included;

(a) The need felt within the village community for the NT to provide sheltered accommodation for the elderly by either the conversion of the existing village hall or by a new development on Hither Way alongside the Playing Field and thus create a village green.

(b) Creating the main access to the NT café from the "Pound" instead of the Red Lion Car Park; with the "Pound" area becoming an outside seating café facility and the existing external cafe space turned into additional car parking. This would create a more direct external visual link between the café and the Fox Talbot Museum

(c) The addition of a Jungle style children's play area within the wooded part of the perimeter walkway/exercise track