

Tamworth Rugby Union Football Club Ltd

Affiliated to the Rugby Football Union & Staffordshire Rugby Football Union

Club Ground:
Wigginton Lodge
Wigginton Park
Tamworth
Staffordshire B79 8ED
Telephone: 01827 68794
VAT Registration No.
110710729
Registered No 7158386



President:
M. R. Steele-Bodger C.B.E.

June 21st, 2012

Mr Andrew Barratt - Tamworth Borough Council
Marmion House
Lichfield Street
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 7BZ

Dear Andrew,

Further to our recent meeting and on-going discussions I can confirm that Tamworth RUFC are in a position to go forward with a number of projects and have further plans to launch further modernisation projects, where we would like Tamworth Borough Council as a key partner.

The following sets-out to provide full details of the club and our background, current projects and the projects that we are about the launch. In addition we will provide feedback from our residents liaison meeting held on 20th June, 2012.

Background to the Club

Tamworth Rugby Union Football Club was set-up between the wars in 1925 as part of the joint rugby, cricket and hockey club. Today the club is dedicated to rugby and caters for players aged 5 – 65 years of age and includes junior teams from Under 7's to U16's, a Colts team, a Ladies team and between 3 and 4 senior teams, including a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Veterans team. We have approximately 1000 rugby members in total, a committee of 19 people, 40 RFU qualified coaches and up to 100 volunteers who organise all training and fixtures for all teams. The Club is located in the Mercian Ward within Wigginton Park and boasts 3 full size pitches (with no floodlights) and a small training area with floodlights. As you know the clubhouse is a Grade II listed building which includes two bar areas, one function room, two gym rooms, two kitchen areas and one meeting room/office. The building was also extended in the 1970's to provide six changing rooms, shower and toilet facilities together with a multi-function room, which is available for club members to hire.

Community Use

The Club's function room is available to club members to hire for functions, meetings, parties and also hosts several regular local groups. All of our facilities are open 7 days a week and all members and the community can use the facilities for a variety of leisure activities. In-fact since the club's beginnings, the facilities have been developed, not only to promote and play rugby (at an affordable rate) but also to provide community based activities, with the following groups regularly using our facilities, as follows;

Management Committee: Micheal Steele-Bodger (President & Director), Keith Borthwick (Chairman & Director), Jez Tomson (Club Secretary & Director), Pete Orrell (Club Treasurer & Director), Rob Thompson (Fixtures Secretary), Dave Linthwaite (Asst Hon. Secretary), Karl Alcock (Child Safeguarding Officer), Rod Bristow (Asst Treasurer & Vice Chair), Grayson Marks (Hon. Match Secretary), Andy White, Nathan Golby, Martyn Bowden, Paul Thomas

- Tamworth Cycling Club
- Tamworth & District Chess Club
- Two Table Tennis Teams
- Tamworth RUFC Darts Team
- Tamworth RUFC Dominoes Club
- Tamworth Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club
- Tamworth Quiz Club
- Local Karate Club

Development Work

Over the years, we have developed a number of links with various Schools and Colleges including Landau Forte Academy, The Polesworth School, Rawlett Community Sports College, Hanburys Farm Community Primary School, Coton Green Primary School and Greenacres Primary School.

After school rugby coaching sessions are provided in Schools, as well as running a local Schools Rugby Tag Tournament and Coaching Camps during the School holidays. We are also in the process of establishing a new touch rugby programme from May to July every year to encourage parents, ex-players and local workplaces to form teams of 10 players to play informal weekly touch rugby fixtures. We would like to establish a new secondary schools rugby 10's tournament and also apply to host the Leicester Tigers Prima Cup.

Training Pitch Project

As you are aware Tamworth Rugby Union Football Club were granted planning permission for a new training pitch, located closer to Wigginton Lodge than the current training and playing surfaces.

The necessity to provision further training facilities was born from the increased participation of senior and junior players at Tamworth RUFC, where the current training area is not junior friendly in terms of access and egress (dark, unlit walkways and poor position in relation to changing facilities).

Planning permission for the pitch was granted on the 23rd June 2010 on the basis that the practice pitch is supported by Tamworth Borough Council's Indoor and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2009 and please find enclosed a copy of the planning approval.

Since being awarded planning permission Tamworth RUFC have been engaged in fund raising to fulfil the project requirements as well as dialogue with yourselves to understand the steps necessary to bring the project to fruition.

Grant funding from Sport England Protecting Playing Fields Fund – £37,269 (towards the construction of the new pitch and some costs towards year 1 maintenance) has been secured and RFU Capital Investment Programme - £28,544 (towards the floodlights) has been applied for.

In order to complete this project Tamworth RUFC would like to request, officially, landlords permission from Tamworth Borough Council.

Project Need

Following England winning the World Cup several years ago, together with our own outreach development work, our membership has grown significantly over the last 5 years and there are now insufficient pitches (particularly floodlit facilities) to support all of our teams. The proposed new

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floodlit training pitch will ease capacity issues. During winter months, the current only floodlit training area, tends to resemble a mud bath through over use and has no time to recover because it supports all training sessions, when it is dark from 4 pm onwards. Furthermore, its location within the Park, means that it drains poorly and is usually waterlogged and un-useable from December to February, which means we have to hire out school facilities. It is also some distance from the main clubhouse, which causes difficulties for coaches when supervising junior teams. It is proposed that the new floodlit training pitch will be used by all teams, but particularly our junior teams and will also support school and touch rugby initiatives. It will also prevent youngsters from having to walk in the dark, to and from the present training pitch.

Community Consultation

As you know consultation has been carried out with various partner organisations as well as other organisations which will use the facilities, including:

- Staffordshire Rugby Football Union
- Rugby Football Union
- Tamworth Borough Council (supporting letter provided by Karen Moss, Sports Development Manager)
- Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership
- Tamworth School Sport Partnership
- Tamworth Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club
- The Rugby Odd Balls Table Tennis Team
- Tamworth RUFC Darts Team
- Tamworth RUFC Dominoes Team
- Tamworth & District Chess Club
- Tamworth Cycling Club
- Tamworth Quiz Club
- Friends of Wigginton Park
- Rawlett Community Sports College
- Coton Green Primary School
- Hanburys Farm Community Primary School
- The Polesworth School

Letters of support have been provided by all of the above organisations and are enclosed for your information. In addition we organised a further Residents Liaison Meeting, which was held at the Club on Wednesday 20th June at 6.30 pm. Approximately 200 A5 flyers were circulated to advertise the meeting to residents in our locality, within the local area of the Club. I can confirm that 3 people attended the meeting including Cllr Richard Kingston, Cllr Ben Adams and Mr Ian Owen. We provided a full overview of the project and showed all those present the precise location of the proposed pitch. Questions were raised in connection with the distance from nearest housing on Falna Crescent Coton Green (Aprox 250 yards with many tall trees providing a natural barrier) The plans for improvements to car parking was also discussed and it was agreed that this needed to be brought into the construction plans for Phase 2 likely to be completed for the 2013 season. The Drainage path to the existing Brook was also discussed and referred to the plans for direction of drains etc.

Mr Owen queried the types of lighting and was shown a copy of the Abacus specification and drawings displayed on the board – 4 no 10m tall masts with modern state of the art LCD lighting which deflect light downwards onto the pitch zone

A small low lighted safety path was also discussed to provide a safer access to the new training area.

Technical Information

An Architecture Designer was appointed in January 2010 to produce plans and drawings for the proposed new pitch and floodlights. Please see all the enclosed plans and drawings and please note that all the plans comply with RFU and Sport England technical standards. We then invited expressions of interest for the pitch work and floodlights from various companies, but would prefer to use Fineturf (specialists in the construction, installation and maintenance of sports turf surfaces) and Abacus Lighting Limited. Please see enclosed quotations and proposed work schedules relating to the pitch and floodlights.

In addition the feasibility of demountable or 'seasonal' floodlights has been explored, as requested during our last meeting. Unfortunately, integration of this would make the project cost prohibitive and deletion of floodlights from the project would not mean that the project outline is not met. Therefore it is our intention to remain with the floodlights that have been signed-off.

We are confident that the standard floodlights will have minimal impact on the surroundings, as indicated during our original consultations.

Funding Secured to Date

As you will be aware, we assembled and submitted funding applications to a number of different funders, with all of our applications being successful, as follows;

Sport England Protecting Playing Fields Fund – £37,269 (towards the construction of the new pitch and some costs towards year 1 maintenance)

RFU Capital Investment Programme - £28,544 (towards the floodlights)

Coalfield Regeneration Trust - £32,000 (towards some refurbishment work on the clubs changing facilities)

As a club, we will also be making a contribution of £10,619 towards the pitch and floodlights.

Training Pitch Project Timescales

Upon receiving Landlords Consent from Tamworth Borough Council we would look to engage contractors and commence works in August 2012, in order to deliver a playable surface by the beginning of 2013.

We, therefore, respectfully request that this element of our programme is discussed at the next Full Council Meeting on 11th July 2012. As there are timescales relating to grant aid support and only a limited window of opportunity to carry out the works this year, I would be very grateful if our project could be discussed as a means of the project being fully ratified by the Council.

Additional Proposals

As with any organisation it our responsibility to ensure that Tamworth RUFC is in the best position possible and remains a sustainable club. During our previous meeting we discussed the possibility of utilising the vacant portion of Wigginton Lodge which we would now like to officially progress. We need to understand the next steps and requirements from the viewpoint of Tamworth Borough Council.

In addition we also discussed being able to extend the possibility of hiring our facilities to third parties, other than club members. This would release the possibility of additional income, allowing Tamworth RUFC to market our facilities to a wider audience and secure additional revenue.

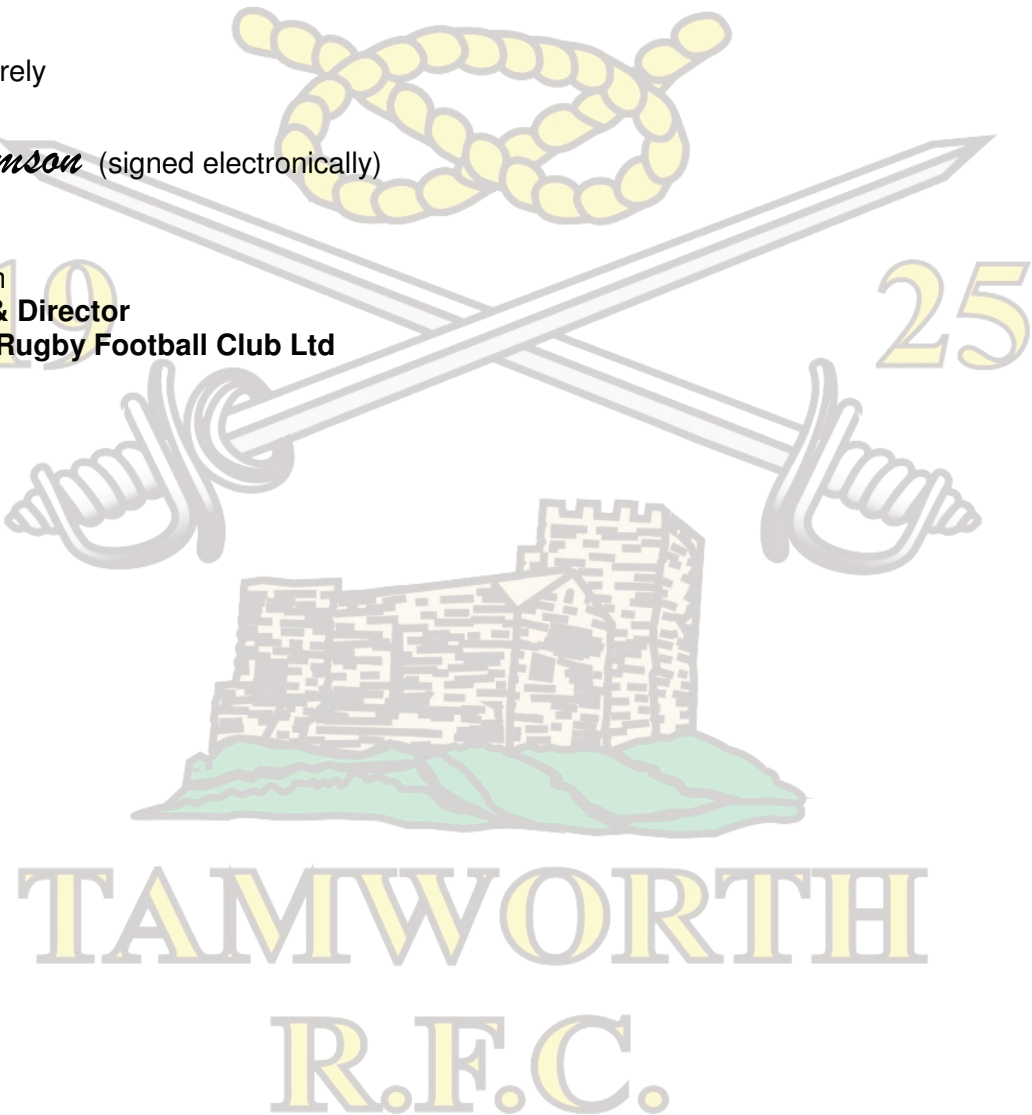
Could I ask that these aspects are considered and discussed at the appropriate level and any feedback issued accordingly.

Should you have any queries regarding the above information , please contact myself or our Chairman Keith Borthwick (Mobile 07740 283 286).

Yours sincerely

J R Tomson (signed electronically)

Jez Tomson
Secretary & Director
Tamworth Rugby Football Club Ltd



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