

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet
AUTHOR: Chief Executive

9 March 2006

BASSINGBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE DUAL USE SPORTS FACILITY PROJECT

Purpose

1. To consider a request from Bassingbourn Village College for grant aid and make a decision on the level of award.

Effect on corporate objectives

2.

High quality, accessible, value for money services	The provision of these dual-use sports facilities provides a very good value approach.
Quality of life	These Dual Use Sports facilities provide residents with the opportunity to improve their health, physical fitness, mental well being and social life.
Sustainability	Providing better sports facilities on school sites ensures less travelling and more sustainable leisure opportunities for all.
Partnerships	Working with the community enables residents to identify local needs and achieve improvements in their quality of life.

Proposal

3. As part of the Council's Dual-Use Sports Strategy rolling programme of improvements to the Dual Use Sports Centres, the proposal is to:

Build a Sports Centre with a full size sports hall (4 badminton courts) and other related facilities.

Background

4. Bassingbourn Village College opened in 1954 as a Community College and has always embodied Henry Morris' vision of providing quality education from 'cradle to grave'. The limited sports facilities that Bassingbourn Village College has to offer have always proved to be popular and affiliated clubs range from badminton, tennis, martial arts, netball and football. The College has always tried to provide accessible facilities for the community and attract as many members as possible from their local community and feeder villages. The limited indoor space has however inhibited the programme of available activities and there is a proven demand for the provision of a sports hall in the Bassingbourn area. The facility,

which can be used, by many key groups, clubs and individuals will be overseen by a Sports Centre manager. A new manager which has a key focus on Sports Development will not only be able to provide a facility for existing clubs to develop and expand but for new clubs and individuals to turn up on a pay and play basis as the centre will have a reception area and staff available to oversee the facilities.

5. To aim is to provide a state of the art indoor sporting facility for the residents of Bassingbourn and surrounding villages. The facility will include a new gymnasium as well as changing facilities and a sports centre reception area. The facility will enhance and strengthen existing links between current users of sports facilities at Bassingbourn Village College and in addition it will provide a first class facility to allow the development of a more extensive range of sporting and recreational activities for adults and young people of ages and all ability levels.
6. Specific aims include:
 - (a) Providing sports facilities needed by the local community, businesses, sports clubs and schools so that the sporting environment and opportunities can be developed and enhanced in and around Bassingbourn
 - (b) Reducing the travel time and costs for those participating in sport at a local level
 - (c) Taking positive action to actively encourage participation by specific target group's e.g. young people, participants with a disability, women and girls and the older adult.
7. It is anticipated that as well as providing for their existing indoor clubs (judo, trampolining, karate and badminton) additional clubs will be attracted to use the facility; basketball, hockey, netball, 5-a-side football, gymnastics, volleyball, indoor bowls, dance, table tennis and indoor cricket training.
8. As well as providing opportunities for affiliated clubs, pay and play opportunities will be created to meet the needs of casual users. Individuals and groups will be able to book the facility for a range of activities and at a range of times during the week. Membership of the sports centre will allow some degree of discount for the casual user.
9. The facility will be a truly dual-use facility and will enable young people attending the Village College to have an enhanced physical education with greater links to community sports clubs. With careful management of the facility it is hoped that some daytime use for the community will also be provided.

Considerations

10. Beyond Bassingbourn the nearest indoor sports facilities are at Comberton Village College (8 miles) and in the town of Royston (4 miles). These facilities were set up to serve the needs of their local community and are currently well used and difficult to book for club users and too far away to enable casual use for people from the Bassingbourn catchment area.
11. The Sports Centre manager (to be appointed) will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the facility which will include oversight of the marketing and usage of the hall including booking systems, administrative systems, staffing, cleaning, maintenance, health and safety and risk assessments. The new manager will also look after the hiring of the existing macadam (netball/tennis) area. This work will dovetail with the College's existing Community Education Programme and the

Sports Centre manager will liaise closely with the Colleges Community Education Manager and Physical Education Department. The College Principal will oversee the Sports Centre Manager's work.

12. There are plans to change the access in to the school, therefore improving and increasing the size of the car park.
13. There are also plans for a new floodlit training area specifically for football and local clubs and the College are currently working with Cambridgeshire FA and the Football Foundation to assess the need and funding available.

Options

14. To offer a grant will provide enhanced sports facilities, increasing opportunities and improving access to all members of the community. Not to offer a grant will lead to an important facility not being available therefore forcing local community groups and sports clubs to travel further to access adequate facilities which are already used to capacity.

Financial Implications

15. Copies of the Architects drawings will be on display and a reduced version of the drawings will be made available for each member on the day.

Please note that Cambridgeshire County Council consider this project a high priority and is committed to meeting the shortfall of approximately £2m.

Total cost £2.3million

Sports Centre
Including:
Fixtures and fittings
Car/coach access road
Oil tank compound
Conversions

Amount raised£	Up to £2million	Cambs County Council
	£50,000	Bassingbourn Village College

Legal Implications

16. The Village College and Cambridgeshire County Council sign up to the Council's Dual Use agreement.

Staffing Implications

17. Officer time is dedicated to oversee the project.

Risk Management Implications

18. The facility will remain in the ownership of the Local Education Authority. The grant will be subject to completion of a Service Level Agreement.

Sustainability Implications

19. The College currently caters for a number of clubs but this in no way reflects the demand from other clubs such as netball, cricket and football. Alongside the regular club users there is also a need to provide casual sports facilities on a pay and play basis and this ranges from badminton, basketball, aerobics, martial arts and 5 a side Football. The new facility will also provide opportunities to target under-represented groups including girls/women and older adults by providing a range of additional activities to meet user needs.

Consultation

20. A consultation event was held and various clubs and organisations attended to express their support for a well-needed facility within their area.

Local Councillor Consultation

21. To be provided on the day.

Conclusion/Summary

22. The facility will enhance the current provision for the residents of Bassingbourn and surrounding villages. In addition, it will strengthen existing links between schools, clubs and individual users of the current facility. Furthermore, providing a true multi-sport environment will allow the development of a more extensive range of sporting activities and facilitate the development of sports for girls, boys and adults of all ability levels.
23. This project is part of the Council's approved Dual Use Sports Facility Strategy and offers the Council very good value for money in providing a major new community sports centre for residents of Bassingbourn and the surrounding villages.

Recommendation

24. It is recommended that Cabinet award a grant of £300,000 to Bassingbourn Village College towards a dual use sports facility project.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Application form and attached information.

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