



**Bonnyrigg Rose Community
Football Club – Asset Transfer
Consultation Summary 2018**

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Introduction

Bonnyrigg Rose Community Football Club (B.R.C.F.C.) is applying for asset transfer of the Poltonhall Pavilion , AstroTurf and Grass Pitches from Midlothian Council .

The club already has a lease for the Pavilion and has made significant financial investment (20k) to make sure that the site is safe and usable and is a building that other community members can benefit from, (nursery, yoga, galaday) to name a few as well as just the football club.

The Astro Turf Pitch is in a very poor state and has reached it's recommended 10-year life span. It's essential the club has a secure future and there is somewhere for Grassroots Football to continue.

In line with the Asset Transfer process the club is required to consult with the community on this concept.

The consultation process has allowed the opportunity for feedback for different groups to ensure there are as many people as possible have the chance to share their views.

The feedback has highlighted / identified the need for services/ resources for the wider community. The club is happy to drive forward the project to address this feedback for the benefit of the wider Community.

Internal Consultation Exercise

Internal Feedback - (B.R.C.F.C Coaches/ Officials)

All club coaches/ officials were invited along to Face to Face meetings, with a view to the Committee sharing first and foremost the plans for the club and to explain to the coaches the situation the club was in . Highlight the future issues with the Astro Pitches and to ensure everyone understood why the club is heading in the direction it and what that means for the Club should the Asset Transfer be agreed. The sessions were led by Vice Chair, Jim Wilson.

34 Coaches attended the sessions, representing all teams/age groups. There were 3 events over a 2-week period in October 2017. (All coaches/officials also had the opportunity and were encouraged to give feedback via the Survey Monkey process too).

At the end of the sessions, coaches we asked to give their views on the following; -

- Do you understand why the club is moving in the direction it's going - y/n - **100%** replied – Yes
- Do you understand the situation which has resulted in club taking on responsibility to replace the Astroturf - y/n – **100%** replied - Yes
- Are teams willing to contribute any excess funds they have in their own team bank accounts to the central account to support the astro replacement fund ? y/n - **100%** agreed in principle.
- If the club borrows money to replace the Astro Pitches (which is likely) does everyone understand all fees will then need to be paid into the central club account with a view to servicing a loan ? Teams can keep their own fundraising money and a nominal amount in accounts (e.g - max 2k) - **100%** replied - Yes

- The greater the amount the club needs to borrow , the impact may well be a review and increase of the monthly membership fee .Do you understand that ? y/n - **100%**replied - Yes
- If the Astros close does everyone understand the consequences and the impact on the future of the club without sufficient training facilities ? y/n - **100%**replied - Yes
- Does everyone agree the club is doing the best thing for the future of the kids, members and community ? y/n - **100%**replied - Yes
- Does anyone have any suggestions with regards to raising money to help potential fund raising ? - Nothing significant suggested on the night. All will be involved going forward.

Any other comments?

Some coaches asked about the revenue generated via gift aid and other coaches asked about the costs of replacing the Astro Pitches too and the future financial commitments that a loan may bring. Neither of these questions could be answered in detail at the event as the costs of replacement haven't been firmed up as well as the business case is still in development.

Just to note at this stage – Within the Clubs Constitution there is no obligation for the club to consult with members/ parents/ carers In the general running of the club, however the Committee always where possible like to involve the running of the club and decisions being made , with everyone involved.

Summary of Internal Consultation

Everyone that attended the sessions appeared to understand the situation the club was in with regards to the Asset Transfer. Everyone understood the challenges the local authority faces, and everyone appeared to agree with the fact that the right thing for the club to do was something rather than nothing.

There were no strong objections to anything discussed raised at the session

Partnership/ Stakeholder Consultation

There are Partners/Stakeholders that the club already work with who were invited to a consultation session as well as other organisation's that serve the local community. There was fair representation across the board. Local Community Forums were invited and although not in attendance on the evening we have a link in with the Hopefield Forum via one of the club coaches.

In attendance on the evening of the consultation event which was the 7th Dec 2017, there was representation from 'Health in Mind' – The Orchard Centre, Community Sports Hub, TESCO , Whitehill Welfare Football Club, Poltonhall Galaday Committee, Bonnyrigg Mosque. In addition to these groups we have support from the following organisations who were unable to attend the consultation event. KIC Dance, Bonnyrigg After School Club(ASC) and the Scottish Football Association (Keith Wright and Tony Begg) who work locally and are directly involved with the club.

On the evening The Vice Chairman delivered the same detail of presentation to the audience that was presented to the coaches/ officials of the club. The following questions were asked of the audience:

1. Having listened to the position the club is currently faced with which has been presented to you this evening, do you agree the Community Asset Transfer is a sensible option for the Community Football Club – Everyone responded with - 'Yes'.
2. Do you currently work in partnership with the club? - yes / no
Supplementary question to those who answered - yes
If you answered 'yes' please share some detail –

- **Whitehill Welfare** - We use facility (Poltonhall) for training (both Astros and Pavillion) . If it was not available, we would lose our SFA Licence
- **Orchard Centre** - As well as working together to improve 'Mental Health Awareness' – the club provided training facilities for adults that use the Orchard Centre
- **Community Sports Hub** - Ongoing Community Development
- **Tesco** - attended Mental Health Seminar and worked with the club on sponsorship support.
- **Poltonhall Galaday** – We get the use of the Pavillion and the grounds.
- **ASC** - We opened a Nursery in April 2017 in the Pavilion with the help and support of the Football club (all at an affordable cost) .

3. Do you have ideas /suggestions as to how we can work together more in the future

- **Bonnyrigg Mosque** – We would love to be involved and help in whatever way possible
- **Whitehill Welfare** - Work in Partnership / help to raise funding
- **Orchard Centre** – Provide Wellbeing sessions/ support for the club, members and coaches.
- **Community Sports Hub** - Shared facilities e.g. for BRCFC and KIC (and others)
- **Tesco** – provide small funding amounts through Community Grant Scheme, bag packing etc ...
- **ASC** – Working together we could look at grant funding and a business plan to look at the future of the pavilion, pitches and surrounding areas.

4 . If the club is not successful in gaining asset transfer of the Poltonhall Site, do you think this will have a direct impact on your organisation/community ?

- **Bonnyrigg Mosque** - Yes – Some of our congregation are involved in the club and as part of the community, we need to work together.

- **Whitehill Welfare** - Yes - there is no other facility for training
- **Orchard Centre** – It may stifle future opportunities for collaborative working.
- **Community Sports Hub** - BRCRC is adding value to the community in terms of developing activity for the whole community
- **Galaday Committee** – Use of facility for Galaday celebrations
- **ASC** - This will have a direct impact on our service as we now have a successful Nursery in place without the football club gaining asset transfer we will have an uncertain future.

5. Do you have any ideas as to what else the facility/ site could be used for (both pavilion and outdoor space) in the future ?

- **Bonnyrigg Mosque** -To reach out to the wider community and get them involved and make everyone aware of the situation and get support for all.
- **Community Sports Hub** – Touch Rugby during the summer period
- **Tesco** – Community Hub/ café / office space/ function hall etc ..
- **ASC** - We have always tried unsuccessfully to open a soft play for the Community of Bonnyrigg. If the club were to successfully take over the building and outdoor space, they could look at extensions to provide a soft play facility. This would give the project an income stream and also a boost to the community of Bonnyrigg. Extensions would allow our Nursery to expand as we already have a waiting list in operation.

6. Do You feel that that Bonnyrigg Rose Community Football Club offers a valuable service for the people within the community?

- **Bonnyrigg Mosque** – Yes
- **Whitehill Welfare** – Yes
- **Orchard Centre** - Yes - Very Much. They are taking an active interest in people in the local community.

- **Community Sports Hub** – Yes
- **Galaday Committee** – Yes
- **Tesco** – Yes
- **ASC** – Yes

Do you have any other Feedback/ Comments ?

Bonnyrigg Mosque - As the club is being used a lot by children they should be made aware and try to help the situation the club is in, e.g – sponsored activities etc ...

Whitehill Welfare – Not enough facilities available in Midlothian

Orchards Centre – The club plays a vital role within the local community focusing on the Health and Wellbeing of children and adults within the community in Midlothian

Community Sports Hub – Very good opportunity for wider community development

Tesco – Hopefully the club can continue the great work started on Mental Health and become a benchmark example for other clubs and raise the profile through fundraising.

ASC - This initiative would enhance the valuable work that Bonnyrigg Rose continue to provide for the community of Bonnyrigg.

Lasswade Rugby Club – Happy to work with BRCFC in supporting the Asset transfer as well as other opportunities for Community Development

Summary of Partner Stakeholders feedback

It's clear from the feedback from the organisations we have reached out to build relationships within the community and for those involved, it's a positive feeling/ experience. It's also very clear that the feeling from those organisations is there is real opportunity for continued growth to benefit much more than the football community. No one has raised any objection to the club taking responsibility for the Poltonhall site and indeed the responses are very positive around the club being the driver for changes and development in the facility / services to meet the needs of the community going forward.

Summary of Public Consultation feedback

An outline picture of Feedback from Survey Monkey feedback is as follows;

There was an equal split in gender for survey completion and 75% of the surveys completed were people that lived locally in the Bonnyrigg area.

The general feel was Bonnyrigg (locality) was a good place to live. Feedback emphasised there is a real strong community spirit, feel. Lots of positive feedback on good neighbors, family ties. People generally feel schools are good with access to modern facilities and with regards to the football club feedback that the club brings all age groups together.

Feedback on how the community could be better highlighted there is need for affordable activities for youths to get involved in. Better cycle paths near schools, more policing, less new houses, more places for eating out and more community projects.

Some detail on what people responded to on how they feel their Community could be better

- more diverse clubs/facilities for youngsters
- in general, more things or attractions to get the youth of the street
- more free or affordable things to do
- better policing
- safer cycle paths near schools and roads
- more places for adults to hang out in
- better maintained/upgraded roads to stop traffic build up
- less new build houses being built
- more eateries
- more community projects

Facilities people want to see in Bonnyrigg/Poltonhall

- Facilities for youth
- Sport facilities
- Facilities for elderly
- Cafes
- Meeting space
- restaurants
- softplay
- sports for disabled children

13-17-year olds want more access to

- Youth groups
- Football
- Cafe
- Social Media Zone
- Swimming
- Dance
- Gymnastic
- Track and Field
- Rugby
- Hockey

People responded with the following written responses;

- Tutoring services
- Better access to fitness classes
- A volunteer centre for disabled children

Ways people think that re-investing/developing community facilities would fill a gap in the community;

- Enhance community spirit
- Offer job opportunities
- Help particular community group

Summary of Consultation

At all levels of consultation, feedback has been positive with no real objections to BRCFC taking on the responsibility of the management of the Poltonhall site. There is also support at this stage for the club to drive a program of change for the benefit of the wider Community.