



Update to the Town Forum, March 2018

Approval was granted by the Town Forum, in September last year, for The Pavilion Project to continue fundraising for a new pavilion at North Walls Recreation Ground. The first task for the group was to secure planning consent for the new building; this was granted at the end of January this year. The application received no objections, and with many letters of support.

Planning consent is crucial for consideration by many potential funding streams – so with this consent, charitable status and promised funding from Sport England, The Pavilion Project team is in an excellent position to pursue further funding opportunities. The group has been enlarged and now comprises fourteen people with a vast range of skills and experience; from fundraising to crowdfunding, accountancy to marketing, event organising and PR, along with continued assistance and design development from AR Design.

The design is now being worked on so that a structural package can be produced; this, in turn, will enable detailed design drawings so that costs for the build can be more precisely determined. We have the assistance of a local resident's structural engineering company for this stage of the design process; "pro bono" help which is greatly appreciated. AR Design continue to work unpaid on the project until funds are available at the end of the fundraising campaign. We are also discussing "in kind" assistance with other trades which, we hope, will reduce the final build cost.

We have applied for, and are in the process of applying to, several grant-funding streams; varying amounts from £10k to £200k, with one fund still outstanding from last year – and with more opportunities coming up all the time. The Pavilion Project is part of Waitrose's Community Matters (green tokens) scheme during March 2018.

We have met recently with the ECB & HCB and are now firmly part of their funding process (potentially £30k). We have very good support from these bodies; "grassroots" cricket is a major focus for the ECB at the moment and North Walls is an excellent location to promote the game at all levels. In the words of the HCB a city-centre location with two side by side cricket pitches is the "holy grail" for a cricket offer.

A crowdfunding campaign is planned for late April this year which, although only set for raising £5k, will demonstrate to larger funders the support for the project from the local community.

The group continues to approach the corporate world for sponsorship. A Sixes tournament is planned for Sunday July 15th, aimed at the (larger) local corporate market. One of the teams will be a city council/pavilion project team.

Several hundred pounds was raised at a festive shopping event in December last year. This, along with a contribution from Aviva, puts funds now at a little under £366k (once pledges have been gift-aided) – approximately 60% of funds required for the new pavilion. We are still working towards a completion date of early summer 2019.

Mike Caldwell, The Pavilion Project, March 2018