

KGV Recreation Facilities

King George V playing fields are situated at Bar End on the same site as the Garrison Ground and the University Athletics complex. The playing fields are so named as one of many spaces protected by Fields in Trust as a memorial to King George V after his death in 1936.

The site comprises of 6 full size football pitches and 2 cricket pitches as well as a skate park, play area and MUGA. There are also 2 pavilions which serve the pitches.

In 2017/18 Winchester City Council commissioned a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) to inform decision making about the provision of sports pitches for public use across the whole of the Winchester District.

It is proposed that the new Leisure Centre will be built on the part of the Garrison Ground where there are currently football pitches, and this will lead to the loss of the equivalent of one football pitch.

This will have the most effect on the Winchester Girls League which has about 400 girls of varying ages playing at the Garrison Ground every Saturday morning. To mitigate this impact, it has been agreed with Hampshire FA and Sport England that the following will be facilitated to enable the movement of the Girls League hub to KGV.

- Installation of 3 indoor toilets in pavilion 1
- Installation of shower screens in pavilion 1
- Kitchenette in pavilion 1
- Installation of grasscrete allowing parking for up to 20 cars
- Increased maintenance to improve the quality of the pitches to allow more matches to be played.

The cost of all the above, whether one off or on-going will be met as a General Fund cost and not from the Town Account because it is necessary as part of the Leisure Centre project. .

Also as a result of the proposed new Leisure Centre, the pavilion which houses the boxing club as well as the Girls League kitchenette will be demolished, which would leave Winchester Boxing Club (WBC) without a home. WBC is an important asset to the community, drawing members from many backgrounds, including those with learning difficulties and mental health problems as well as those just wanting to keep fit. It is important that we keep continuity by providing premises once the Leisure Centre build commences.

It is proposed that the needs of all users could best be met by providing one pavilion to replace the two existing pavilions which are old and subject to vandalism on a

regular basis. It would provide changing rooms, social area, boxing club and possibly community facilities.

This would mean that there would be no requirement to upgrade the existing pavilion. although the pitches and parking

Some interested parties have already been approached with positive responses. Fields in Trust has no problem with the proposed build as it will be predominantly for sporting use and no playing area will be lost as a result. Hampshire FA would like to support the project and it is hoped that a significant grant would be available for this purpose.

Previously there was £200k in the capital budget for a replacement pavilion, £167k from the Open Space Fund and £33k from earmarked reserves. As the proposed pavilion will be significantly different, the Council will be looking at all funding options including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Sport England and Hampshire FA as well as any contribution the Town Forum may consider appropriate.