

Design and Access statement

Applicant: Sutton Bridge Parish Council

This statement is prepared to support an application for outline planning permission for a new sports centre, including a replacement pavilion, on land owned by Sutton Bridge Parish Council known as The Memorial Park. The new sports centre and pavilion, will encourage 'away' teams to play against the present club raising the standard and encouraging greater participation in the formation of new teams [*youth, girls/women and elderly - 'walking football'*], but being multi-use [*the facilities are large enough for all sports*], other sports will be encouraged to use the building. It will provide space for indoor sports or training in inclement weather and be available for other community activities.

The new building will help achieve the targets set out in the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funding Prospectus, under 1.7 Project Activity (Strands) & Local Priorities - 1.7.1 Community & Place E2; E11 and E12 to deliver SHDC's preferred projects under point 3 – "... for smaller places which will improve and widen the use of community buildings"

Much exploratory work has been undertaken to assess the potential cost of the centre; and grant funding applications are dependent on outline planning permission being held, hence this application.

1.0 Introduction:

1.1 The present 70-year-old football pavilion in the Memorial Park in the centre of Sutton Bridge, has reached the end of its life as a football pavilion, including no longer meeting current Sport England Standards.

1.2 We are advised that the Sutton Bridge United Football Club cannot take part in senior league games, because other teams will not play, due to the unsatisfactory standard of the pavilion. Thus, a replacement is required.

1.3 Such a replacement will improve the amenity available to the residents of Sutton Bridge

1.4 The footprint of the building will be approximately 510 square metres, plus an area of hard-standing and a vehicular access path and 'T'-shaped turning space of 201.5 square metres making a total of 0.07 hectares

1.5 Please see plan drawing

2.0 Site History:

2.1 Not known, but could relate to the old pavilion and possibly the installation of public all-weather exercise machines some years ago

3.0 Site and location:

3.1 The building is to be installed within the recreation ground known as 'The Memorial Park' behind the Curlew Community Centre, address 51 Bridge Road, Sutton Bridge, Spalding, PE12 9QQ

3.2 Grid reference: - 0" 11'13 E & 52" 46'05 N

3.3 Please see site plan drawing

4.0 Amount:

4.1 The Memorial Park contains 1 off full-size football pitch and 1 off ¾-size football pitch, the old pavilion to be replaced [but retained to be repurposed*], plus open areas for walking and picnicking, a fenced children's play area and other unspecified areas. The total area amounts to approximately 2.27 hectares

4.2 *The old building would be repurposed as a youth centre or MUGA, by local volunteers and tradespeople, subject to a future application for change of use. [see pre-advice ref: PE-00190-23 dated 2/10/23]

5.0 Appearance:

5.1 The new sports centre including a pavilion, will not detract from the appearance of the area.

5.2 The addition of the new sports centre will positively improve the appearance of the area.

5.3 It will be making use of a largely unused area between the football pitches and the all-weather public exercise machines near to the fenced children's play area.

5.4 As a new-build, it will complement the nearby Curlew Community Centre, improving the overall appearance of the area of the centre of the village.

5.5 The roof will be covered with solar panels to provide carbon-free electricity for use by the building, with surpluses being sold back to the grid, to provide income contributing to the viability and sustainability of the project

5.6 As a single storey building, it will not be overlooked by, or overlook residential dwellings

6.0 Scale:

6.1 The new sports centre will be larger than the old pavilion it replaces, but as it has to comply with Sport England's standards, the changing rooms for home and away teams, plus the officials' room, together with the multi-use sports hall, the size is considered appropriate for its proposed use.

6.2 To allow all sports to use the building, the rooms are bigger than specified by the FA for football

6.3 The sports hall to the side of the pavilion will be in keeping with the proportions of the pavilion element of the building

7.0 Layout:

7.1 It will be alongside the smaller of the 2 football pitches giving a much-improved view of games being played from the building and the patio area.

7.2 As a single storey building, while it will have a large footprint, will not affect or impose on any other neighbouring premises or dwellings

8.0 Landscaping:

8.1 There will be no landscaping other than the provision of disabled access to the new building and the patio/terrace to be part of the building to provide a dry surface for viewing games

9.0 Access & Egress:

9.1 Access and egress to the building will be by a pathway of heavy-duty grass reinforcement mesh, of 2.44 metres width, with a 'T-piece' turning area, to allow emergency vehicles to attend if required.

9.2 The pathway will extend from the proposed building to the gates into the Memorial Park, without detracting from the appearance of grass

9.3 It would also provide access and egress for private or trade vehicles to deliver/collect items when repairs and maintenance are required, and to take items to and return from away games, if required.

9.4 Parking for fans will be the Curlew Centre car park, as used at present

10.0 Public Transport:

10.1 The bus stops for the No 505 [Spalding to and from King's Lynn] bus, which runs along Bridge Road, has stops at the entrance to the Curlew Centre car park

11.0 Disabled access:

11.1 Suitable ramps will be built to facilitate access to the building

11.2 All external and internal doorways will comply with current regulations

11.3 Disabled toilet facilities etc, will be included in the building with current regulations