

Why is the project to create a new Pavilion proposed?

The new Pavilion is intended to replace the old structure that is in a state of disrepair, is unsightly and certain areas are not able to be used because they present a health and safety risk. There will be the need for the spending of significant sums to replace the existing Pavilion even if the loan is not supported.

If the loan is not supported, then it is likely to also jeopardise the Football Foundation funding which is connected to the more extensive scheme and also make the Pavilion more reliant on the Parish Council for future funding given that the hiring of the recreational area is intended to make the Pavilion financially sustainable.

Who will benefit from the new Pavilion?

The Pavilion has been designed to support the community as a whole, whilst also at the same time providing a focal point for sporting activities. At present the following football clubs use the site – Downend Saints, Mangotsfield United and Fishponds Old Boys - and also the following cricket teams – Churchways, Downend 3 CC, Bristol Asians, Old Park CC and Bristol New Eleven. The teams promote and support sport for all age groups and the new facilities will help develop opportunities for the expansion of girls teams and inclusive sport.

The Pavilion will also provide office space for the Parish Clerk and hot desking by other organisations. This will reduce room hire costs of the Parish Council and ensure that public money is used wisely. The recreational facilities will provide a focal point for the sports teams when games are scheduled but will also be available for hire by community groups (there will be no late night/loud music events allowed). The recreational facilities are intended to support the wider park community and also provide a source of funding to help keep the Pavilion financially viable.

Will the precept (the Parish Council's part of Council Tax) increase if the loan is approved?

No. The precept will not increase to fund the loan repayments as the Parish Council's budget already includes sufficient funds to pay the loan amount. The Parish Council wants to take a loan to ensure that lower construction prices are secured at this stage as waiting to 'save up' reserves will only see prices increase further. The loan is financially viable and ensures the public will benefit from improved facilities earlier.

Why are you using modular construction rather than traditional build?

Modular construction is widely used for new school buildings, sports facilities, healthcare buildings and many other uses. Modular construction has the same lifecycle/durability as traditional construction and is acceptable to banks if security for a loan is required. The design has been fully reviewed and endorsed by the Football Foundation who will be making a significant investment in this scheme.

The use of modular construction will also be less disruptive for the public and present fewer challenges in terms of health and safety on the site. The modular building is constructed off site which reduces the amount of construction traffic and disruption for local residents.

Why has the budget increased?

The cost of the scheme increased from the initial estimates given that the planning permission required greater landscaping and a new car park, which was not originally envisaged. Global construction costs have also increased over the period of the last 3-4 years when the plans were originally presented.

The extra costs also bring extra benefits that will provide a far better welcome to the park, more secure (better CCTV and fencing) and make it more visually appealing. The community use will be strong and these extra costs have actually allowed the Parish Council to improve the wider park rather than just the Pavilion.