

Replacement Artificial Pitch – Meole Brace Secondary School

Project Overview

Applicant organisation	Meole Brace Secondary School
Place Plan area	Shrewsbury
Project name	Replacement Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP)
Project location	Meole Brace School
Brief description of project	Replace Artificial Turf Pitch. The current pitch is no longer fit for purpose and is highlighted as a priority for replacement in the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS).
Total project cost	£280,400
CIL Local funding requested	£196,280

Please describe your project in more detail: How will it be delivered? What will it deliver? What is its purpose? What will it achieve?

The current AstroTurf pitch (ATP) is used by Meole Brace School, Shropshire Hockey Association, Shrewsbury High School and Shrewsbury Hockey Club. All three of these use the facility for their official training and fixtures. It is also used by the wider community. The current surface was put down in 1995. Since then, the surface has had specific areas repaired but not a full replacement. The lifespan of hockey suitable surface is about 10 years, with good maintenance 12-15 years is possible. The current surface has been there for 26 years! The surface is no longer fit for purpose.

Should funding be approved the replacement surface will be laid/provided by an England Hockey approved supplier. This will ensure it meets current guidelines set out by England Hockey. The new surface will enable users to carry on using the surface for its intended purpose. If the surface isn't replaced it is likely to be closed as its deemed unsafe. As well as club/community use it is used by Meole Brace School for PE lessons and fixtures. The ATP plays a key part in the in the PE curriculum and the school as a whole. The new surface will be a vast improvement on the current one. Advancements in hockey suitable surfaces will mean users get to play on a much-improved surface. Although we will reuse the existing floodlight columns, we will install new floodlights. The new floodlights will be much more energy efficient and limit the light pollution.

If the ATP at Meole Brace School was lost, then there is a high likelihood that the clubs using the provision would either fold or be forced to export their demand outside of Shropshire. The pitch is of poor quality, the playing surface being beyond the recommended lifespan of ten years.

There are 3 key elements to the project;
High quality Hockey suitable surface
Maintaining usage for educational purposes
Access to the wider community.

Please describe how your project is DIRECTLY related to new development in the local area. (Please keep in mind that CIL cannot be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision, unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development.)

Meole Brace School is located on the southwest of Shrewsbury. In the emerging Local Development plan Shrewsbury is listed as the Strategic Centre of Shropshire and the primary focus for new development in the County. From 2016 to 2038 it's expected 8,625 dwellings will be delivered in Shrewsbury and along with around 100 hectares of employment land.

Meole Brace school catchment area covers much of central and southern Shrewsbury and includes the Shrewsbury South Urban Extension which will accommodate up to 1200 new houses and has already seen significant development with 260 new houses completed by Taylor Wimpey at Sutton Grange; 159 Homes at Miller Homes Sovereign Park development; 93 at the Spinney (Belway Homes), and a further 300 houses are under construction during 2021 in this area.

Within a short distance of the school the Sweetlake Meadow housing development of 175 houses has recently completed, as has a major development between Myton Oak Road and Hanwood Road by Bovis Homes has delivered 425 homes. Conversion and redevelopment of the Shelton Hospital site and Copthorne Barracks has also delivered around 500 new houses in the area.

By 2024 Meole Brace are projecting that they will have 1350 on their enrolment.

Please give a brief outline of the evidence that you have gathered which clearly confirms the need for this project.

The replacement of the ATP is highlighted in the Shropshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy. It's the top priority from a hockey point of view as the facility is used by Shrewsbury Hockey Club, Shrewsbury High School and Shropshire Hockey Association for matches and training. The facility is also used by Meole Brace School in deliver their PE lessons.

Within the PPOSS it highlights high levels of hockey demand within Shropshire and there is a need to protect all full-size hockey suitable ATPs, especially those which are currently being used to accommodate community hockey demand. Shrewsbury HC have expressed latent demand due to issues with quality and accessibility.

One of the recommendations in the PPOSS is to refurbish the pitch at Roman Road Sports Centre and retain as a hockey suitable surface. This is seen as one of the top priorities in the strategy.

When it rains the surface floods as the drainage no longer works. In winter when temperatures go below freezing the surface becomes unusable as it freezes over due to water not draining away.

During the hockey season the facility is used 58% of the time for hockey and 42% of the time for football/other use. The hockey usage is for training and matches whereas for football it's informal kickabouts. Bookings for available quarter pitch slots were, hockey 1176 quarter pitch slots in comparison to footballs 852 slots (Sept 19 – Mar 20).

From a school point of view the ATP is used every day during the academic year. Usually 2 classes per lesson (5 in total) are based on the ATP (60 students) There is not a time where we don't plan for its use - weather is the only reason we would not use it. It is also used heavily for extracurricular provision. The school use the facility for a minimum of 190 per year.

Other school uses; Primary sports festivals - plan for 5 a school year. Primary school games quiksticks, Hockey fixtures, Shrewsbury district competitions (Cricket, Football, Hockey)

Losing the facility would have a huge impact on curriculum delivery. It would cut the number of sports we are able to offer to students, we would lose an important facility for hosting and running competitions for both primary and secondary schools in the area.

Please give a brief outline of the evidence of support for the project from the local community.

Through the work carried out by the PPOSS we received evidence from Shrewsbury Hockey Club, Shropshire Hockey Association, England Hockey and Shropshire Council Leisure Services to support the usage of the facility for Hockey and other use. We undertook extensive consultation on the strategy over a period of 12 months.

Letter of evidence and support have been received from Shrewsbury Hockey Club, Shropshire Hockey Association, England Hockey and Shropshire Council Leisure Services.

I've discussed the EOI with the Town Clerk of Shrewsbury Town Council. She confirmed the Town Council are happy to support CIL Local funding for a replacement Astro Turf at Meole Brace School on the condition that use is extended to the wider community.

Finance Overview

- Preliminary items including site set up, site security and welfare £4,400+vat
- Removal of existing sand-filled synthetic surface and shock pad system £15,000.00+vat
- Inspection of existing sub-base- £0.00 (included as part of our service and project management
- Supply and installation of new 15mm insitu rubber shock pad £39,000.00+vat
- Supply and installation of s sand-dressed synthetic turf system with associated line markings £182,000.00+vat
- Replacement of the floodlights reusing the columns £40,000.00+vat

The School will be contributing £56,080 towards the total cost of the project. As part of the grant conditions the school will have to find this level of funding to access the CIL money. They will also have to commit to putting £10,000 per annum into a sinking fund to support the replacement in years to come. Shrewsbury Hockey Club and Shropshire Hockey Association are contributing £28,040. CIL Funding request is £196,280.

Total project cost is £280,400