

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
21 JULY 2021**

Officer: Helen Ball – Town Clerk

COUNTY GROUND PAVILION

Purpose of Report

To update members on the plans for extending the Pavilion

County Ground Pavilion

The County Ground Pavilion is used by a number of groups who operate out of the County Ground; these being:

- Beacon Cricket Club
- Quayside Cricket Club
- SAHA Football Club
- Rounders
- Shropshire Shufflers
- Canoe Club
- Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

The Pavilion also acts as a stored for grounds machinery used specifically to maintain the grounds

The Pavilion has over a number of years suffered the ravages of flooding with the last two years completely overwhelming the ground floor and causing serious damage to the fabric and electrics of the building.

Officers have liaised with all clubs on their current and future needs and proposals were submitted to planning for extending the building. This would provide increased facilities and storage and would remove the need for a number of storage containers which have been used by the canoe club.

Due to more pressing work programmes the extension was not progressed during the lockdown, but discussions have recently taken place with the primary user, Beacon Cricket Club regarding resurrecting those plans.

During Lockdown a number of improvements were carried out to the existing pavilion, all of which would prove beneficial to the long-term expansion of the facility. These include:

- Replacement of rotten windows
- Replacement of decking
- Replacement of staircase
- Replacement of Roof & removal of asbestos, installation of dry edges on roof and fitting of new guttering and down pipes
- Electrics

Likely Cost & Timescales

The cost of the recent repairs has been taken out of planned buildings maintenance budgets. A budget allocation for the extension was set at £400k and previous QS costings put the build costs at around £500k. Build costs have increased significantly of late, therefore work on revisiting those QS costs will need to be undertaken.

The ECB has expressed an interest in enhancements to this facility and has penciled potential funding in 2022/23; this however would be dependent on a security of tenure for the Cricket Club. Officers are working on what that might look like.

The Head of Operations is to make enquiries with the potential for this project to be a design and build contract.

The likely timescale for development will be in the 2022/23 financial year with start date after the season ends in August 2022 and being ready for the May 2023 season.

Improvements to the Grounds

The County Ground has been identified in the s106 Agreement for the Copthorne Barracks Development as the beneficiary of £115k for improvements to the site as a sporting amenity. Proposed works include:

- Drainage & Irrigation
- Carparking Improvements
- Improvements to the Cricket Wickets
- Creating concrete Run-ups to the Cricket Nets
- Fencing and Gating

Various staff have been tasked with preparing specifications for this work so that it can be tendered to mirror the timescales for pavilion extension

Other Works

To be in a position to bid for ECB funding, the Beacon Cricket Club will need to prepare a business plan that will show how they would be able to meet the current outcomes for funding (ie increasing women and girls' participation in cricket); they will receive assistance from Cricket Shropshire in doing this. The Club are also liaising with other users on their usage requirements and how a joint management of the facility would work to facilitate a long-term lease arrangement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the report be noted