

**PLANNING STATEMENT
FOR
PROPOSED INDOOR SHOOTING RANGE AT
THE ARCHERY FIELD
OFF KNOWLE LANE
MELTHAM
HUDDERSFIELD**

BRIEF HISTORY



THE VALLEY BOWMEN OF HUDDERSFIELD

Archery Club

www.valleybowmen.co.uk



The Valley Bowmen of Huddersfield is a not-for-profit community amateur sports club (CASC 02187) and is affiliated to the Grand National Archery Society / Archery GB (the sport's governing body in the UK)

The Valley Bowmen of Huddersfield is a long-established archery club (est. 1963) providing outdoor sports and recreation facilities at Knowle Lane, Meltham. The club wishes to develop these facilities further to allow archery (including shooting, coaching, training and development) to take place during winter evenings and times of bad weather by erecting an all-weather shooting range at “the field” on Knowle Lane.

The Valley Bowmen first came to Knowle Lane in 1971 when they started renting the field for archery. The club used a grant from Kirklees Local Authority to acquire the land in 1991 and in 2013 the club was granted planning permission to erect a building to provide changing and toilet accommodation – ref. 2013/62/90906/W. This was made possible by an Inspired Facilities grant of £50,000 from the Sport England: Places People Play 2012 fund.

The new welfare facilities built in 2013 saw club membership reach 146 by 2019 and resulted in sports attendances rising from 936 per year in 2012 to 5200 per year in 2016. Attendances have continued at this level until 2020 when they have more than halved. This is because during the last 9 months the club has been severely impacted by the restrictions imposed by the COVID19 pandemic. During lockdowns all shooting at the field stopped and the club has seen a decline in membership income and our financial reserves have been significantly eroded as fundraising through beginners' courses and community have-a-goes has ceased.

Archery is a year-round sport with training, coaching, casual shooting and formal competitions running all year round. During the inclement months, the club uses the income from the above events to rent indoor space at Royds Hall, Paddock to continue shooting during the winter. This is now impossible due to lack of income and because these venues have had to close due to

COVID19. This has particularly impacted the training and development of club juniors – county and national standard - as well as our senior members.

A solution to the above has been made available to the club in the form of a Community Asset Fund grant from Sport England of £50,000 to pay for the construction of an all-weather shooting range on land available at the club location. An all-weather shooting range on the club site will enable shooting to continue even during future COVID restrictions (in line with prevailing ArcheryGB guidance). By awarding this grant Sport England are supporting our plan to enable a return to play as soon as the pandemic subsides, and restrictions have been lifted, and this is the current club priority.

Once COVID19 is behind us the new facility will enable shooting, coaching, training and development to take place in addition to the normal club activities such as beginners' courses and publicly attended have-a-goes held on the field. After school, bad weather and winter sessions will now be possible, bringing many more opportunities for our members to continue their development plans regardless of the available light or weather conditions. We are also confident that membership retention, especially amongst juniors, will continue to improve as a direct result of these new facilities.

December 2020: Valley Bowmen of Huddersfield Executive Committee

PROJECT AIMS

This project involves the provision of an indoor archery shooting range which can be used in all weathers, all year round with an installed electrical service which can be used by the membership of the archery club.

The archery club currently has 146 members who come from all parts of the local community. This year the club would have trained over 136 people over 5 courses during Spring and Summer but due to COVID 19 none of this has been possible leaving the club with a massive loss in income.

The club works with young and old as well as people with learning, hearing and visual disabilities.

The Valley Bowmen of Huddersfield is the leading archery club in the community

The current amenities at the field are very good with members able to use a pavilion containing a kitchen and toilets for disabled and ambulant members / visitors giving space for changing if required. The addition of the indoor shooting range would be a massive boost to the club as members could shoot in all weathers and the club would not have to rent sports halls at a cost of over £3000.00pa. Currently due to the pandemic this facility is non-existent and members coaching, in particular junior members, is currently restricted. The club has developed a number of quality junior archers, including 3 that shoot in the Yorkshire teams, one of which now shoots with the GB squad. This provision would help to retain members and attract new members to the benefit of the club.

(Refer to **Testimonials** appendix.).

The club field is situated in a rural environment and other than two dwellings on the opposite side of a wooded area adjacent the field the next nearest habitation is more than a quarter of a mile away. This remote location means there is little security and there has been a history of low-level vandalism in the past.

The club has been successful in securing a grant through Sport England under their 'Community Asset Fund' programme and are keen to progress with the works which when complete will help to maintain and increase membership by retaining at least 30% of those archers trained on the beginner courses

The club is keen to increase both junior and disabled participants and to increase the number of people shooting each week. To do this **it is absolutely essential** that the club keeps developing by providing an indoor archery all weather range.

PLANNING LEGISLATION

Under the National Planning Policy Framework, chapter 13 paragraph 141 it states that: 'Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance their beneficial use, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; **to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation**; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity or to improve damaged and derelict land.'

Under the sub heading of **Proposals affecting the Green Belt** paragraph 145 states that 'A local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the green belt. **Exceptions to this are:**

(b) **the provision of appropriate facilities (in connection with the existing use of land or a change of use) for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation**, cemeteries and burial grounds and allotments; as long as the facilities preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict the purposes of including land within it.

As archery can be performed as both an outdoor and indoor sport and is a recreational activity it is believed that this application for an indoor shooting range falls into this category.

END OF STATEMENT



ARTISTIC IMPRESSION OF PROPOSED BUILDING LOOKING FROM THE ARCHERY FIELD