

About the application

Application number: 2020/94405	
What is the application for?:	Erection of detached building for use as an indoor archery range
Address of the site or building:	Archery Field, Slate Pitts Wood, Knowle Lane, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 4HL
Postcode:	HD9 3BL

User comments

Type of comment: A supporting comment	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

I am writing to you to offer my full support for the proposed indoor shooting range at the Valley Bowmen Archery field on Knowle Lane in Meltham.

In the last 10 years the archery club has gone from strength to strength, offering more and more community focused elements and bringing archery to a wider audience. A large catalyst for this was the addition of the club facilities, which along with the focus of the committee and club members has led to a huge increase in beginners course, have-a-go sessions and members of the club through the spring and summer seasons. 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. These juniors were once beginners from the local community who showed an interest and signed up for beginners courses at the club. It really shows the efforts and dedication the club, it's coaches and members put in.

In late autumn and winter the shooting options diminish greatly, and rely on the club investing in the use of sports halls for limited time periods. During the indoor season, practice and coaching sessions for members are very limited, driven by the cost and challenges of hiring venues. The juniors have to travel to York for indoor coaching, even then in facilities that are less than ideal. At the same time all community sessions stop, as the club has no means to hold them.

It's for these reasons that I fully support the addition of an indoor shooting range at the field. It will allow year round coaching, practice and community sessions without fear of bad weather, dark evenings or excessive costs. I personally also hope that the addition of the indoor facilities will allow coaching sessions from the Yorkshire coaches, making them far more accessible to the local community.

In 2020, due to the COVID virus the ability for archers to shoot has dismissed greatly. No club shoots, massive reductions in member interaction, no competitions, no coaching and very limited indoor shooting options. The impacts on the members has been massive, as it has for practically all social sports. The club has provided COVID safe practises for outdoor shooting but the addition of an indoor range will allow the same abilities throughout the whole year.