Statement of Community Involvement

Proposed New Clubhouse – Newsome Panthers

Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared in support of the planning application for the proposed new clubhouse at Newsome Panthers. The statement outlines the public consultation undertaken in relation to the proposals and summarises the feedback received from local residents and stakeholders.

The statement also demonstrates the wider social and community value provided by the club through its ongoing charitable activities, fundraising initiatives, and community events which benefit not only club members but the wider local area.

Community Engagement – Public Consultation Event

A public consultation event was held in relation to the proposed new clubhouse development. Invitations were hand delivered to more than 150 local residents, including those residing on Hall Bower Lane and Hall Bower Village, High Lane, and the upper section of Jackroyd Lane.

The consultation event was attended by 27 residents.

Senior representatives of the club were present throughout the event alongside the appointed planning consultant and project architect. This ensured that attendees were able to ask questions and receive detailed responses regarding the proposals, operational requirements, and the overall design approach.

Five A1 presentation boards were prepared and displayed to clearly explain the proposals. These included:

- Visualisations of the proposed clubhouse
- Site layout plans
- Information relating to the current design stage
- Details explaining the rationale behind the proposed materials and architectural approach

Residents were also invited to view the club's existing facilities in order to better understand the operational limitations of the current building and the need for the proposed replacement clubhouse.

Refreshments were provided throughout the consultation event to encourage open discussion and engagement with local residents.

Feedback Received

Parking was identified as the principal—and notably the only—concern raised during the consultation event.

One resident raised concerns regarding existing parking congestion on Hall Bower Lane during busy match days. However, once attendees were shown the proposed plans, particularly the increased on-site parking provision incorporated within the scheme, residents confirmed that this satisfactorily addressed their concerns.

No further objections or concerns were raised during the consultation process.

All attendees expressed support for the proposed development following presentation of the proposals and discussion with the project team.

Wider Community Benefit

In addition to its role as a rugby club, Newsome Panthers plays an important wider role within the local community through the organisation and hosting of a range of community events and charitable initiatives that benefit residents across the area.

The club regularly facilitates events which extend beyond sporting activities and provide opportunities for local residents, families, charities, and community groups to come together.

- ### Charity Bonfire Event

The annual charity bonfire event is jointly hosted by the club and Round Table and has become a significant community event within the local area.

The event has raised in excess of £20,000 for local charitable causes and community initiatives. In addition to the charitable benefits, the bonfire event has also provided direct economic support to local businesses. The most recent event included 10 local food vendors, all of whom sold out during the evening due to the strong attendance and level of community support.

- ### Community Car Boot Sales

The club regularly hosts community car boot sales which provide a valued local activity for residents and families. These events help to bring additional community activity into the area and provide opportunities for local people to engage socially in a family-oriented environment.

- ### Charitable Fundraising Events

The club has also organised and hosted a number of charitable fundraising initiatives including:

- Colour runs
- Cricket days
- Golf days
- Sponsored walks

Collectively, these events have raised in excess of £20,000 over recent years for charitable causes.

A significant focus of the club's fundraising activity has been support for Motor Neurone Disease (MND), reflecting the club's close connection to the cause as one of its members is currently fighting the disease. These fundraising activities have helped to generate both financial support and wider awareness for MND-related causes.

Conclusion

The consultation process provided local residents with an opportunity to engage directly with the club and project team at an early stage of the development process. Feedback received during the consultation was positive, with the proposed increase in on-site parking provision successfully addressing the only concern raised.

The proposals will not only improve facilities for the rugby club itself but will also support the continuation and growth of wider community activities, charitable events, and fundraising initiatives that provide ongoing social and economic benefits to the local area.

The applicant considers that the consultation exercise demonstrates constructive engagement with the local community and confirms strong local support for the proposed development.