

## 3-16 CONSULTATION MEETING

### GURNOS FOOTBALL CLUB & MERTHYR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

(via Microsoft Teams)

**PRESENT:**

**Mr Anthony Lewis - Head of School Planning & Improvement, MTCBC**  
**Mr Chris Jones – Building & Property Services Manager, MTCBC**  
**Mr Dan Bufton, Sports Development Manager, MTCBC**  
**Mr Robert Barnett – Street Scene Manager, MTCBC**  
**Mrs Jayne Jones - Clerk to the 3-16 Governors, MTCBC**  
**Mr Dan Jones – Bid Manager, Willmott Dixon**  
**Mr Chris Weston – Design Manager, Willmott Dixon**  
**Mrs Fiona Gwilliam - Project Architect, Atkins**  
**Mr Jason Pritchard - Project Manager, Aecom**  
**Mr Ben Whyman - Consultant Engineer, Cambria Consulting**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Mr Michael Ronan, Merthyr Football League**  
**Mr Jamie Morgan, Gurnos FC**  
**Mr Neil Williams, Gurnos FC**  
**Mr Jamie Minett, Gurnos FC**

**APOLOGIES:**

**Mr Chris Evans, Merthyr Football League**

NO.	DISCUSSION
1.0	<p><b><u>Welcome/Background</u></b></p> <p>AL welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced LA officers and external partners in attendance.</p> <p>AL explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consult on the revised options for the new 3-16 school. As part of the consultation process there will be targeted stakeholder sessions with Governors and Headteacher, Gurnos Football Club, Residents and there will also be a Public Meeting on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.</p> <p>The consultation period follows on from the first consultation which took place in November 2020 and is being undertaken in response to a number of concerns raised which required looking at for the school site.</p> <p>The meeting today is to provide an opportunity to gather your views and answer any questions, raise any concerns on the revised options before completing the individual surveys. The revised options are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Option 1 - build the school on plateau 1.</li><li>• Option 2 - build the school on plateau 4.</li></ul>
2.0	<b><u>Presentation</u></b>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<p>Fiona Gwilliam, Architect gave a presentation on the two options and explained at the end of the presentation there would be an opportunity for questions/comments.</p> <p>The following information was noted: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background/contextual information.</li> <li>• Site consultation 1 (November 2020).</li> <li>• New consultation, option 1 and option 2.</li> <li>• Pros and cons to each option.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting was opened for questions/comments: -</p> <p><b>C: This is the first time I have seen the plans. Sports is a crucial provision and a 3G facility is an excellent addition. The 3G pitch has to be the correct size and minimum pile height.</b></p> <p>R: The 3G pitch is standard and meets the minimum standard 90mx50m.</p> <p><b>Q: Where is the parking for the 3G pitch?</b></p> <p>R: For both options there will be a designated car park and the site will be secure. The 3G pitch will be used by the school during the day and bookable outside of school hours.</p> <p><b>Q: On the flipside of this, can the pitch use be taken away from us? If this was to happen, we haven't got a pitch to play on.</b></p> <p>Q: Currently do you use 2 pitches?</p> <p>R: <b>Yes, we have 15 teams and play across 2 pitches.</b></p> <p><b>C: I am assuming that the changing facilities are in the school. I can't see changing facilities in the plan.</b></p> <p>R: In option 2, there are no separate changing facilities but if the playground is relocated there could be potential for changing facilities, separate to the school.</p> <p><b>Q: If the changing facilities are in the school, how can the football club use them without the involvement of the caretaker? If it is to be a community school, it needs to be just that and there needs to be an agreement which does not prohibit use.</b></p> <p>R: The 3G pitch will be available outside school hours and is bookable. There will be an agreement with the school to secure the use of the facilities. Options will be looked at to relocate the changing rooms on to the community facility.</p> <p>C: If the 3G pitch is well designed it will more than make up for what will be lost and booking arrangements are going to be key.</p> <p><b>C: It is all good saying that we will have the option to book the pitch, however other schools in the authority, Abercanaid, Pen-Y-Dre etc all said the same and it all turned sour. I don't have any other options in the area.</b></p> <p><b>C: As a club, we want to progress and move through the league and to do this, things have to be in place. The changing rooms have to be within a certain distance from the field.</b></p> <p>R: We can take on board what you are saying, and this can be considered as part of the design.</p> <p>C: We would have a community use plan and your specific requirements will be taken on board.</p> <p><b>C: The key thing is football, and we hope that the game is not negatively affected, and it is</b></p>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<p><b>important that the design includes: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Separate changing rooms.</b></li> <li>• <b>That Gurnos Football Club remains in Gurnos.</b></li> <li>• <b>There is a fair pricing policy for use and the club has the potential to continue to grow.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>R:</b> It is important to continue the conversation with the football club and other stakeholders to plan over the long term.</p> <p><b>C:</b> <b>Option 2 at the south, there is no parking at all and a heck of a walk.</b></p> <p><b>C:</b> <b>The changing rooms are an issue and need to be near the pitch. Also, there was an agreement with Abercanaid and there were still issues. Also, the 3G pitch at Pen-Y-Dre is not open to use currently. We want to avoid this. The changing room also need to be separate to the school.</b></p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>What are the timescales and what will happen in the gap when the pitches are not available?</b></p> <p><b>R:</b> In option 2 (MR) referred to access and the distance to walk, this is currently being looked at to allow a pedestrian route to access the pitch from the car park and there could also be the option of community parking on phase 2 of the current Bishop Hedley site.</p> <p>Also, Dan Bufton is currently working with Pen-Y-Dre High School as part of a wider community focus strategy to support community use of school facilities. The 21<sup>st</sup> century school project rules and the investment objectives for this project put the community use of the school as a required project benefit from this development. Currently Bishop Hedley High School has an indoor 3G pitch which has regular community use and the school is very good at engaging the community for use of its facilities.</p> <p>Going forward we are looking at the timescales to agree alternatives when the pitches are out of use. We are having conversations with Bishop Hedley and Gwaunfarren Primary regarding use of their shared pitch as an alternative option.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>What is the future of the Bishop Hedley indoor 3G pitch?</b></p> <p><b>R:</b> This hasn't been decided at the moment but we are working to a budget and so it will need further consideration going forward.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Transport studies are part of the design work. Where do you park when you play a game?</p> <p><b>R:</b> <b>Mainly on the roadside.</b></p> <p><b>Q:</b> Would off-site parking be a better option?</p> <p><b>R:</b> <b>Yes, definitely.</b></p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>If this goes ahead, how do we book? Who do we pay?</b></p> <p><b>R:</b> The school will manage the booking for the 3G pitch. The Governing Body will have agreed a user agreement with the club.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>Will we have our own access, times will vary, days will vary. We have 15 teams and managing this, if times change at last minute, can be difficult.</b></p> <p><b>R:</b> This can be discussed and worked out as part of the agreement.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>What will the cost of hire be because it can vary and may prohibit use and become</b></p>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<p><b>unsustainable if costs are too high?</b></p> <p>R: The cost of hire would be agreed by the Governing Body and the hire charge would be part of the agreement. We will take on board your comments and we will consider a discounted rate to ensure a fair charge for the club due to the loss of the current grass facility.</p> <p><b>C: The model at Pen-Y-Dre High School, in relation to the changing rooms, is good and for the club to continue it is vital that all the comments are taken onboard. If we have to rely on a caretaker opening, with the irregular hours, this would be difficult to manage with games on Saturday, Sunday and weekdays early evening.</b></p> <p>R: If you are able to provide the details this will be taken into account when drawing up the user agreement.</p> <p><b>Q: What happens if the school has an event on and this clashes with the clubs booked sessions?</b></p> <p>R: The booking request will be looked at and the Governing Body would agree the usage as part of the user agreement.</p> <p><b>C: At this point in time, we are in a different place with a different culture. We have a more joined-up approach with a clear strategy and people are held to account. We will work to ensure there is clear communication with all stakeholders and the community focus is key.</b></p> <p><b>C: With any 4G pitch, maintenance is essential going forward, and there needs to be a sink fund so that there is a plan to replace the carpet at the end of a 10-year period.</b></p> <p>R: Yes, agreed this needs to be considered and built into the maintenance plan of the pitch.</p> <p>C: Need to balance this with use, cost of rental and consideration managed through project.</p> <p><b>Q: One more thing, booking side, would we have allocation of training days etc, we don't have fixtures (home/away), how can you ensure we have facility when we need?</b></p> <p>R: We could work to safeguard certain amount of bookings at a fair charge, this will be key. The club will also still have use of the facility being retained as a community pitch which could be used for training and some games, for juniors etc. This may help manage the costs and overall access required.</p> <p><b>Q: Will we have an allocation of sessions, how will the bookings and allocation of usage be managed, how can the club ensure the sessions required for games are available?</b></p> <p>R: We will work to safeguard a certain amount of bookings, this will be key when drawing up the agreement. This will be managed by the school who would work closely with the club. The club will have the option of using both the 3G and the open community facility for training and some games etc.</p> <p><b>Q: Can you provide the detail regarding the current usage and required access to the facilities?</b></p> <p>R: Yes, we can provide that.</p> <p><b>Q: What if there is a need/request from another club?</b></p> <p>R: The school will want to maximise their income and so the facility will be bookable by other clubs but there will also be a need to support Gurnos Football Club and this is why a user agreement with a fair charge is key.</p> <p>C: As part of the design team, we will take on board all the comments raised today and continue to engage with stakeholders to build a 3-16 school that is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of a community school.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<p>C: Once a decision has been made on the design, we can continue the conversation with the club and during the process we will continue to have open dialogue and provide regular updates.</p> <p>C: The option of using the pitch near Gwaunfarren Primary School and Bishop Hedley High as a temporary measure will be looked into further.</p>
3.0	<p><b><u>Timescales</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation 2 currently out for feedback until Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>• Decision on consultation expected 26<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>• Current plan is to start on site January 2022 and to open the new school in September 2023.</li> </ul>