

Appendix 3

Dear Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - Chairman of the Council,

You will be aware that the Ashbourne Recreation Ground Sport & Community Partnership (ARGSCP) has been working closely with the District Council in proposing a new Pavilion in Ashbourne, to replace the existing 'worn out' Memorial Pavilion, that meets the objectives of the District Council's Playing Pitch Strategy as well as national bodies for sport in England. This project has been developed over the last few years with the support of the District Council and has now reached a critical point which is the subject of an officer's report to the District Council's Full Council on 27 August.

The ARGSCP project team is working closely with Ms Becky Bryan and Mr Mike Galsworthy, two key District Council officers, on the project and I have been informed by our project manager that you have suggested that the ARGSCP formally requests that the District Council considers additional capital investment in the project over and above the £70,000 that has already been agreed. I understand that this figure may be proposed to increase to £79,000 in the report to Full Council.

Ms Becky Bryan has been sent the ARGSCP's project financial profile for the Pavilion project based on current tendered costs to demonstrate the project's viability for the 27 August committee report. In broad terms this shows total cost of the project at £830,000 approximately. Project income from a variety of organisations, including the District Council, at £775,375. Since that information was sent to Ms Becky Bryan the ARGSCP has had further positive discussions with the English Cricket Board (ECB) which indicates that their investment in the project could be more significant subject to what funding shortfall is required to let a contract.

The financial profile for the Pavilion project therefore, if all funding applications are successful, is that the ARGSCP will be able to secure all the funding required to complete the project. However if one or more of these fail then there could be a funding shortfall. Most important for ECB investment is to spend their investment on the project by January 2021. This means that the ARGSCP would need to agree a start for the project in early December 2020.

One of the main challenges with a community project of this scale is to align all confirmed external funding in sequence so that external funders can commit funding at approximately the same time. For the ARGSCP this would need to be in November 2020. It may not be possible to secure all external funding by this date, specifically from Sport England. I am asking therefore whether the District Council could consider a further 'in principle' capital contribution to the Pavilion project at £175,000 on the understanding that this may not be required if external funding applications are successful. Needless to say that even if it was required it would still mean that the cost to the District Council of providing a modern high quality sport and community Pavilion, with a total cost of £830,000, would be £254,000 with no further annual maintenance and other revenue cost for the 50 year period of the proposed lease from the District Council to the ARGSCP.

I look forward to receiving the views of the Full Council.

Your sincerely,

John Lake, Chairman Ashbourne Recreation Ground Sport & Community Partnership