



QUARRY ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Established 1952
Home ground: Margaret Road, Headington, Oxford

Paul Blackman
Sports Development Officer
Leisure, Parks & Communities
Oxford City Council
Horspath Road
Oxford OX4 2RH

29 March 2015

Response to consultation on Quarry Recreation Ground pavilion

Dear Paul

Quarry Rovers Football Club welcomes Oxford City Council's decision to upgrade facilities at the Quarry recreation ground in Margaret Road. This investment will enable us to continue to develop as a club, allowing future generations of local children to enjoy the benefits of organised competitive sport.

We believe the new pavilion should serve the wider Headington community too. As such, we would like to see the new building host a variety of activities for different groups.

As a key stakeholder, Quarry Rovers FC is pleased to have an opportunity to review proposals for the pavilion and we look forward to commenting on the plans as they develop. Our initial comments are as follows:

Size and positioning

The proposal represents a significant improvement over the status quo. However, we believe this once-in-a-generation opportunity for the community calls for some more creative thinking. We encourage the City Council to consider design options that will get more from the site while, of course, remaining sympathetic to the surroundings. In our view, this could be achieved by utilising the existing footprint and extending to the unused strip of land behind the current building. Adding a second floor could also achieve the same objective.

Parking

We are not convinced that the proposed parking arrangements are necessary. The current on-road option has proved adequate to date and as long as residents' parking conditions are not materially changed, precious grassed play area can be prioritised over tarmac. Disabled parking, if required, could be accommodated on the existing space to the south of the current construction.

Changing facilities

Most of the matches taking place at Quarry Rec at weekends are small-sided games. However, the proposed changing facilities seem designed for two adult teams (one home, one away). The shortage of changing room space is an inherent problem in the current pavilion. This has become

more acute in recent years with the successful addition of girls-only teams. To encourage the growth of girls football as part of the youth football mix it is important that we can offer appropriate facilities for changing. We would like to see this requirement addressed, if possible, in the new building.

We also feel that the provision of changing facilities for officials is unnecessarily generous. This space could be used more effectively for toilets or player changing rooms.

Storage

The provision of storage in the proposed design is inadequate for existing club equipment. In addition, we believe that the use of removable goalposts will help preserve the playing surface at Quarry Rec in the future. This would require further lockable space with wide door access.

Meeting room layout

The kitchen space in the meeting room appears very small. We would recommend reconfiguring the layout to address this.

Security

Vandalism has long been a problem at Quarry Rec. It is important that the site can be secured when unoccupied.

Yours sincerely

Neil McCrae
Chairman, Quarry Rovers FC
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