

## **2023 Report from Beach Bowls for Annual Parish Meeting**

**Membership:** During 2023 Beach Bowls have increased their membership by 25% and have teams playing in C and D and Business House Leagues, both Mens and Mixed, and currently have seven lady members. We had an Open Day the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 and another is planned for the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. We also attended the Coronation Volunteer Day on the village green and we have a stall for the Feast Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. We are looking at entering an Ely afternoon team for the 23/24 season however the restrictive size of our current pavilion condemned by SCDC in 2018 may restrict this.

**S106 New Bowls Pavilion Progress 2023** The current Chair of Waterbeach Parish Council has rather put the dampers on the project and the current Planning Application S/0009/20/FL will expire in September 2023. As per the 2021 agreed reconciliation of S106 Funding SCDC S106 Officer James Fisher noted the following from Waterbeach Parish Council Reports in 2021:

**“Section 106 planning obligations are used to mitigate the impact of development and are secured in accordance with national and local planning policies, including the Local Plan. South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy SC/7 states that all housing developments will contribute towards Outdoor Playing Space (including formal outdoor sports facilities), to meet the need generated by the development. *The District Council has secured contributions on behalf of Waterbeach Parish Council which will be spent on any number of identified sports projects including the provision of a new pavilion to serve the bowls green.* South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy SC/6 states that all housing developments will contribute towards the provision of indoor community facilities to meet the need generated by the development, with contributions based on a standard of 111m2 of such floorspace per 1,000 additional population. The supporting text states that Indoor community facilities, including village halls, community halls, church halls and other publicly accessible buildings, play a crucial role in maintaining a sense of local identity, as well as providing a base for a variety of different groups and activities, from pre-school groups, to indoor carpet and short mat bowls, yoga, meetings or coffee mornings. The Bowls Club have explored the possibility of enabling the new pavilion to be hired out to the general public, in order to benefit from additional section 106 contributions under Policy SC/6. However, the Bowls Club have concluded that this is not something they wish to pursue at this time. *Whilst this position is understandable, the new pavilion will not therefore qualify as an indoor community facility and is therefore unable to benefit from indoor community space contributions.*” In May 2021 drawings providing for larger footprint to the building were commissioned.**

The Parish Council Working Party again in 2022 offered Indoor Community funding to supplement the Covid price Hike. Councillors Bull, B Williams and M. Howlett stated that to enable Indoor Community Funding the Bowls Club (60 ,70 and 80 year olds) would be required to run the new Bowls pavilion as a Community Building for four days a week for the Parish Council! They asked us to consult our members and they unanimously said no. The Bowls Club since 2019 have been requested by Waterbeach Parish Council to provide a contribution towards the Project and in October 2022 applied to CCF Amey for a Grant towards our S106 Project and in late October 2022 carrying forward to March 2023 were given an in-principle offer of £40k towards a sustainable Timber building and would relieve the S106 Funding total by Waterbeach Parish Council thereby negating the need for any S106 Indoor Community Funding. The Parish Council made no attempt to discuss or accept this Grant.

## **2023 Beach Bowls Report Page 2**

During the period from Late October 2022 to March 2023 Waterbeach Parish Council totally ignored requests from the Bowls Club for a confirmation letter accepting the Grant towards the Project. This communication “black out” was also challenged by Beach Bowls at Waterbeach Council Open Forums yet still no dialogue or alternative suggested. This resulted in the Grant offer being withdrawn in March 2023.

**New Pavilion Proposals for 2023** The CCF Amey Grant Application process is quite challenging however it did enable Beach Bowls to produce four sustainable Timber Building Proposals with 2023 prices with full Specifications for materials timelines which we have before and since offered to Waterbeach Parish Council for their assessment. The companies who gave quotations are of a high standard and although their prices varied somewhat **all were given the same specifications by Beach bowls to quote for within the confines of the available funding**

### **Olson Timber**

### **English Heritage**

### **Passmores Pavilions**

### **New Meaning**

Each has merits and details have been sent to the Council and each would require a Planning S71 Variation to change the material from Brick/Block in the original application) to Timber as per the new Proposals. Regardless of the manufacturer this would not restrict submitting a Planning Variation S71 so why the hold up?

**Conclusion 2023 Report** The Chair has mentioned that there needs to be an agreed Specification and the Bowls Club have provided four so far, all with merits. Waterbeach Parish Council commissioned a Budget for a Timber Building in 2021 which was sketchy and did not fully represent a factual and detailed specification and also cost £1k to put together. All requests since 2018 by Waterbeach Council to the Bowls Club have been met yet the simple task of communication with the community has been lost by this current Council. Item 7 on the Agenda LOOKING AHEAD will be interesting as time is short and this Report hopefully outlines the urgency of “time” to avoid repaying S106 money to Developers because this Council is constantly locked in the turmoil of employment and planning issues! Our sincere thanks to Councillors of the Council Working Party appointed in November 2022 Ivan Gilzean, Kate Grant and David Smart for their hard work and support with the Bowls Club to secure in such a short time a joint Proposal to full Council for a way forward with our Project.

## **Regards, Beach Bowls 2023**