

Bullock Park Expansion Project

For those who could not make it to the Shipdham Parish Council drop-in session on Wednesday 25th September for an update on the project. You can read an outline of the project and current status on the Shipdham Village website

<http://www.shipdham.org/wp-content/uploads/Bullock-Park-Further-Development-Plan-2.pdf>

The plan is to expand the amount of space available for sports and leisure in the village and improve the pavilion to provide an indoor sports space, bigger and better changing rooms to accommodate more sports team, and possibly incorporate a social club/bar, publicly accessible toilets, etc. The expansion and improvement of BP was the most common suggestion in response to the 2015 Village Appraisal (available on the Shipdham.org website) and has been a long term plan for both the Parish Council and Bullock Park Management Committee in order to bring the village sports and leisure facilities up to date in line with the growth of the village and more in keeping with other local villages.

Currently the planning applications for the development of the parish council land off Pound Green Lane for housing, that includes the Shipdham Bowls Club Green and pavilion, and an outline plan for the new Bowls Green site at Bullock Park have been withdrawn as Sports England have concerns about the amount of available space at BP. So the Parish Council is currently investigating option to obtain more land to increase the size of the park. Once this is secured, the BP application will be revised and both applications will be resubmitted.

We cannot provide any detailed plan for the new pavilion/sports hall and any other changes beyond the new Bowls Green at BP until after the Pound Green land is sold and we have exhausted all additional matched funding options. Only at that point will we know what the budget is and can then start the detailed plan.

The money for building the new Bowls Green is already secured and the Bowls Club Management Committee, who have been included in this project from the very start 2 years ago and voted at their 2022 AGM to support it, will be consulted on exactly where they want the new green and their own dedicated car park once we have the planning permission for both sites. Only once the new green is established and the Bowls Club are happy that it is ready for play, will their existing club house, sheds etc. be moved to BP. Only once they are happily installed at BP will the land off Pound Green Lane be placed on the open market and available to any developer to bid on it.

If we are unsuccessful in the Pound Green Pane planning application, the project will not go ahead as there are no other assets in the village that would raise sufficient funds for a project of this size.

The Parish Council will be holding further drop-in meetings as the project progresses and will post updates as the project achieves the planned milestones.

If you have any questions, I am more than happy to speak or message with you to ensure that you are getting fact rather than some of the rumour and misinformation being posted on various social media sites. Alternatively you can email the Shipdham Parish Council Clerk at clerk@shipdhamparish.gov.uk or come along to one of the future meetings.