

Design and Access Statement for proposed inclusive community health space,

Barnsley Rugby Club, Shaw Lane, Barnsley

Aims

To provide a space and support structure for people to make healthy lifestyle choices to improve the health, well being and quality of life of vulnerable people in particular and the local community in Barnsley in general.

The project will provide a non-judgemental environment where user groups which consist mainly of vulnerable people can take part in activities which are accessible to everybody and will improve their health, self esteem and well being. This will be achieved through design and planning by the end users, together with the management board of Shaw Lane CSA of a physical environment which will consist of a sustainable, ecologically sound and accessible, two storey building which will contain a fully equipped inclusive fitness area, together with a multipurpose social, learning and activity area, supported by a community cafe.

The project aims to increase the number of volunteers and provide a forum for carers. All groups will gain confidence and new skills that will increase their ability to take up new training, educations or employment opportunities.

The project will be managed by a Project Volunteer Inclusion Manager, who will be responsible for expanding the volunteer work force so that the maximum support can be gained for the users. The benefits of volunteering are numerous and as the project develops, volunteers and carers will be encouraged to form a forum to share experience and good practice.

Shaw Lane Community Sports Association (CSA) is a registered charity that supports the local community by providing and managing facilities and development opportunities. The charity is based at and is responsible for the management of Shaw Lane Community Sports Centre. Shaw Lane CSA was established in 2003 and is in its 10th year of operation.

Shaw Lane CSA has been instrumental in engaging with the local community and has forged links with many community groups who deal with the more vulnerable members of society. Through the efforts of Shaw Lane CSA the site is now a venue where vulnerable groups feel comfortable and safe. It is well lit, warm and has plenty of car parking and grassed areas and is fully accessible by all. Because it is seen as being a sporting venue, the area and site is recognised as neutral by all communities.

Background

Shaw Lane Community Sports Centre is a multi-sports centre which sits in a 15 acre site in a town centre environment. Besides the usual sports opportunities that are available to the public such as cricket, rugby, football etc, there are a number of organisations which work with the local community who use the site and provide services for a wide range of vulnerable and hard to reach groups. Shaw Lane CSA takes care of the infrastructure needs of these partner organisations and also promotes use of the site through its own activities. The purpose of the charity is to manage and utilise the site as effectively as possible so that the potential of both the site and its users is maximised to benefit the whole community. The most effective way of delivering the mission is to utilise partnership working. As an example, Shaw Lane CSA provides facilities for many hard to reach groups to improve their general health and well-being. Some of these activities are carried out in conjunction with development partners such as PSS Liverpool who provide NHS Health Trainers to Barnsley. Many more examples of partnership working exist through a wide spectrum of activity and partner, everyone working together successfully to encourage the people of Barnsley to live a healthy and satisfying lifestyle.

Shaw Lane CSA is a founder member of Barnsley Sports and Active Lifestyles Partnership (BSALP), within which it has forged partnerships with many community organisations. BSALP is a multi-agency organisation which encourages partnership working between bodies such as South Yorkshire Sport, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Third Sector Organisations such as NHS, MENCAP, PSS Health Trainers and Active Barnsley as well as other local community providers. As such the provision of sport and active recreation opportunities fits with local area plans and all projects for change are unanimously backed by all agencies involved.

Besides partnership working, some of Shaw Lane CSA's work centres around direct promotion and successful completion of activities. In the last year for instance Shaw Lane CSA has:

- provided 12 weeks of holiday activities with an average of 80 participants per day
- provided 5 community based outreach sessions for older people per week
- held 3 Disability Sports days for average of 200 participants in May, July and September
- established a community allotment providing and clearing land. The allotment has over 50 visitors per week
- an activity based club for teenagers with learning disabilities with an average of 15 participants per day.

Shaw Lane also manages activity on the site which has an average of 1500 user visits per day. This includes:

- liaising with 7 sports clubs to optimise use of the facility, changing rooms, meetings etc.
- management of Astroturf, tennis courts and grass sports pitches
- management of 3 groundstaff
- providing ground maintenance services for 2 local schools and advanced learning centre

The project fits in with local, regional or national plans, strategies and initiatives.

The project is an excellent example of the government's vision of "The Big Society" where government agencies, council and third sector organisations work together and accept responsibility for moving society forward.

Barnsley MBC has a strategy called One Barnsley – The Community Strategy for Barnsley 2011-2015, which sets out strategy for the next four years. Partnership working is a strength within Barnsley and is a key point within this document, which states:

- "The Community Strategy for Barnsley 2011-2015 sets out the high level priorities that One Barnsley partners will work on together over the next four years."
- "The new Strategy builds on a history of strong partnership working in Barnsley. It also builds on the progress that has already been made towards achieving the long-term vision for the Borough as 'a successful, uniquely distinctive 21st century market town that offers prosperity and high quality of life for all'".

All One Barnsley partners are committed to delivering the Community Strategy, and have agreed the following principles:

- Partnership working is even more important now than ever before;
- One Barnsley will focus on the things it can do better together;
- The Strategy outlines a number of things that partners will work jointly on over the next 4 years.

This project aims to provide facilities for the whole community to use which is run mainly by volunteers in a partnership with other agencies, providing a good fit for the timescales covered.

Barnsley Sport and Active Lifestyles Partnership produces a strategy on behalf of the council to ensure that a joined up approach is taken regarding facilities and development of the health and activity agenda in Barnsley. The provision of the Shaw Lane Community health space is a key component of this strategy.

The provision of inclusive facilities in the town centre area is a priority in this area which has recently lost several facilities including two full size sports halls in the last 6 months.

Layout and Design

The siting of the proposed two storey building will mean the removal of part of the existing "tearooms" and linking this with the existing Main Building Bar area. The design of the extension will be in keeping with the original design of the main building and function rooms, ie buff brick with contrasting brick string course and Marley Modern grey concrete roof tiles.

Windows and doors to be aluminium painted blue to match existing.

Access

The existing access to the complex will remain and the proposed extension will not impede on this in any way. There is adequate parking on site to accommodate the proposed use.

Access into the building will be either by means of the use of the existing ramped disabled access or directly connecting from the main bar.

Internally there will be a disabled lift to gain access to the first floor.