

There is no intended alteration to the existing pitches, either in quantity, layout, or substantial renovation to the ground makeup or topography. The pitches are currently operated by the Parks Services department at BMBC. They are rented annually to North Gawber Colliery FC, and have been for around 20 years. In April 2021, a site owner and user agreement was signed between BMBC and North Gawber Colliery FC that allowed the latter to enhance the maintenance of the football pitches to improve their quality.

The usage of the pitches will remain the same under the new tenure model. It is rare that all four pitches are in use at the same time, as game times are often staggered throughout the day. The four pitches are characterised by the number of players that play on them per team. There is a 5-aside, a 7-aside, a 9-aside, and a 11-aside pitch.

The site has existing parking arrangements over and above what is being proposed as part of this scheme. The Car Park off Church street has approximately 40 parking spaces (though these are public spaces), and the Cricket Club area has space for 20 cars on hard substrate, (with significant additional grass parking when suitable to use). We still however find that parking on matchdays can be problematic, and have an impact on local residents, and hence the proposal for additional.

The purpose of the development is to provide a sporting facility that is fit for purpose and encourages participation amongst the local community. Existing arrangements are inadequate, particularly around the provision of facilities with female participation growing so quickly.