

## **Chairman's report re Garthwaite Sports and Community Pavilion**

### **Background**

In November 2016 we decided to look into making better use of the land we own in Garthwaite Crescent, Shenley Brook End. It was decided by councillors that we would investigate building a sports/community pavilion on the land and providing grass pitches marked out for all requested sports, hockey, cricket, football, rugby and korfbal have all shown an interest.. A further possibility would be for a hard court tennis area which would also be marked out for basketball and netball. There is a section of the easement on the land which states that the Transferor (SBEP) should *"use the property for the purposes of a village green with built facilities for recreational sports/leisure and community use, for the benefit of the residents of Shenley Brook End & Milton Keynes generally.*

Following work on quantifying the need in the area it was found that all of the existing facilities were virtually fully booked both for sports and also daytime playgroups and evening and weekend social activities.

In February 2017 four local firms of Architects presented their ideas and outline plans for this facility and Hinton Cook Architects were chosen by Parish Councillors at an Extra Ordinary meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017. These facilities would be available to let to the whole community and usage could change during the course of the day between various sports depending on the bookings. The pavilion would be used for lettings using a similar model to that currently in use at our wholly owned Emerson Valley Community Centre. It would have changing rooms/toilets which would have access from outside as well as from a central meeting room, kitchen facilities and storage. This would enable lettings to playgroups etc. by day, plus evening use for youth clubs, fitness groups, scouts etc. The outside access would enable sports groups to rent playing facilities separately or playing facilities plus changing rooms and if required the whole pavilion could be rented by clubs to enable them to provide the traditional teas etc.

A public consultation was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July with notices of this being put on all notice boards and in my Column in the Summer 2017 newsletter.

Planning permission was granted in November 2017 and in March 2018 we went out to four local building contractors to tender for the work.

### **Finance**

The Parish council hold some monies ring fenced to be used on this land; this is endowment monies which came from Milton Keynes Council when the land came into our ownership in 2007. I had discussions with the officer at Milton Keynes Council responsible for S106 monies regarding available funds. He indicated that there was a substantial sum in excess of our requirements available through the Oxley Park Development and Shenley Church End Parish Council agreed that this would be made available to us. I also had discussions with the officer responsible for the Tariff monies from Tattenhoe Park and he agreed that he could release £150,000 to our project. The S106, tariff monies plus our own funding would cover the cost of this project. In December 2017 it was found that some of the S106 monies had been double counted by Milton Keynes officers and following tenders received for the contract from builders we will be £250,000 short on our funding. The S106 monies of

£463,000 have already been transferred to us and we are holding this on deposit. The £150,000 tariff money has been signed off and just has to be ratified by the first MKC Cabinet meeting of the new term which I understand is 6<sup>th</sup> June.

The financial projections show that this facility will show a surplus and I therefore asked council for permission to apply for a Public Works Board Loan to cover the shortfall which can be repaid by this surplus. It will **not** be necessary to increase the precept in this respect.

This building will be a valuable asset fully owned by the Parish Council and at our full council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 the application to Public Works Loan Board was unanimously approved and we will proceed with the application.

Jean Nicholas

Chairman