

St Athan Community Facilities Workshop – Thursday 4 December, 2008

Overview

This document provides a record of the comments made during the Community Facilities Workshop that took place at RAF St Athan Golf Club on Thursday 4 December, 2008.

These points have now been fed into the master-planning process and whilst it is impossible to commit to acting on every point, they will all be considered by the project team as part of the consultation process.

i) Sports Facilities

a) Access to facilities

Questions

1. What guarantee is there that the public will be able to use the facilities at times of high security?
2. If there is a security lock down, how long could access be prevented for? If there are clubs using the facilities for competition training, any interruption in their training schedule could be very damaging
3. What would security levels be, will there be a pass system?
4. Will the leisure facilities be outside the wire?
5. How will people access the facilities from Eglwys Brewis Road?
6. How will people from Llanmaes access the facilities? Could there be additional access from the road bordering the western boundary of the sports facilities site?
7. Will people from West Camp have access to the facilities and at what times?
8. By keeping military and civilian use to different times, will a 'them and us' conflict be created?
9. What will be the hours of access for public use? Most people would like access during the day – what will be in the small print?
10. What access will be provided for local clubs, schools and the local Further Education College?
11. Will local use of the facilities be incentivised e.g. with reward points or a loyalty scheme?
12. Had heard that you would only be able to access the sports facilities as part of an organised group – is this true?
13. What will be the impact on other facilities in the area?
14. How much will people be charged to use the facilities?

Comments

15. It's important that schools and clubs have access to the facilities. They should also receive preferential treatment
16. Local schools need to be involved in the decision-making process and access for young people to the facilities must be provided
17. It was noted that public access to facilities currently benefited when the schools were on holiday but the MOD would obviously be a full time user
18. It would be good to have public access in the mornings, evenings and at weekends
19. Access to the facilities should be fully integrated with military and civilian populations having access at the same times
20. Full disabled access needs to be considered – both externally and internally – and the needs of all sectors of the community should be taken into account
21. The sports facility may be overused by the military academy. Will there actually be much benefit to the local community?
22. Charges for use should be comparable with other local facilities and should be priced within the range of the general public with concessions available. They should also be comparable to other local facilities so they are not closed as a result
23. Service personnel and their families shouldn't be able to use the facilities in St Athan. They should be made to use the facilities inside the wire
24. Opening times for the public should be reasonable and community use should be prioritised. There should also be ring-fenced times for use of facilities such as the swimming pool for learner groups/baby groups/schools etc.
25. The leisure facilities will create more cycle traffic from Llantwit Major
26. We need to concentrate on facilities for children and the over 60s
27. Heard a lot of talk over the years, what we want now is certainty so we (as councillors) can go out and sell the scheme

b) Facilities

Questions

1. Will these facilities complement rather than replace other local facilities, particularly those in Llantwit Major?
2. Will adequate parking be provided?
3. The police and ambulance service are looking for a facility (issue brought up in a police partnership meeting) – has Metrix spoken to them?

Comments

4. It was noted that the community stood to gain a lot from the development of the new sports facilities and this would be welcomed in the Vale
5. The swimming pool will be welcomed
6. The facilities could become a centre for sporting excellence, particularly following the 2012 Olympics
7. It was noted that the current facilities that will be made available to the public are aimed at older age groups and there is little by way of facilities for younger children and toddlers. This needs to be considered, for example mini-pitches for young children
8. There need to be more squash courts provided
9. Important that it's not just the facilities that are provided but also the equipment to allow the public to make the most of them e.g. hurdles for the athletic track
10. Requests were made to consider adding the following facilities and making them available to the public:

- *Indoor Astro turf pitch*
- *Climbing wall*
- *Youth club*
- *Splash pool/children's pool/shallow end in the main pool*
- *Flumes and diving boards*
- *Trim trail around edge of site*
- *Outdoor pursuits provision*
- *Cinema (the one in Barry has just closed – problem of keeping young people entertained)*
- *Ten pin bowling/Bowls*
- *Equipped play area for children*
- *Community centre/thrift shop*
- *Sailing centre*
- *Sports hall to be set up as multi-use facility*
- *Dance*
- *Library and internet cafe*

c) Location

Questions

1. Why can't the sports facilities be provided on or near the golf course and move the SFA site off the golf course?
2. Why aren't the sports facilities located closer to the local population e.g. nearer St Athan?

Comments

3. Important that facilities are made as accessible as possible and this means giving careful thought to location
4. Need to make sure the sports pitches are placed in good draining land – not marshy

d) Other

Questions

1. Will the RAF school of Physical Training be moving to the site?
2. Could groups of interested residents be taken on site visits to see the existing facilities at MOD St Athan?
3. What will happen to the golf course – already a popular facility? If holes are lost for building houses will they be replaced?
4. Who would be responsible for the long term maintenance and upkeep of facilities and how would this be paid for?
5. Who will run the facilities?
6. As equipment breaks or needs replacing, who will pay for this?
7. Concern was raised over ensuring adequate policing was in place. Are there any plans to have a police station on site?
8. What activities will take place on the boundaries of the site and how would this affect people who walk around it?
9. Will the road have cycling facilities? Will there be provision for a cycling track round the whole site?

Comments

10. The community has been promised things before that were never delivered. It would be a great shame if this followed the same pattern

ii) Local Infrastructure

Questions

1. What exactly will the medical and dental facilities provide e.g. A&E, hospital beds?
2. Will there be any maternity facilities on site?
3. Will the civilian trainers working at the Academy be able to use the medical facilities?
4. What impact will there be on local schools? To which school will the children go?

Comments

5. If people need to be referred to consultants at other, larger hospitals in the area, this will impact on waiting times

iii) Museum

Questions

1. Will the museum include archaeological artefacts/information found during construction at the site?
2. Could the museum showcase the heritage of the local area?
3. Could a St Athan historical society be set up on site as an annex to the museum?
4. How many people will it attract and will this cause a problem with traffic?

Comments

5. The museum might be better in Barry along with the railway museum
6. It would be good to keep the museum open later to attract youngsters in the evening – there is a lack of facilities for younger age groups in the area
7. Link it in with heritage coast
8. Need toilet facilities and a café for kids to eat sandwiches
9. Would be good if the museum reflected a 'sense of place' the history of the local area and St Athan itself

iv) Creche

Questions

1. Would a new crèche complement the existing one at The Gathering Place?

Comments

2. The crèche is generally supported as more crèche spaces are always needed/wanted
3. Child care in the Vale is generally expensive
4. Because of the Gathering Place crèche, it would be good to have the one on the base placed further west. Near to sports centre would be good. There always used to be two crèches on base (E and W)

v) Spar Shop

Questions

1. Will there be retail facilities on site for people at the Academy to use?
2. Is the post office on site being retained?
3. Is the Spar Shop still owned by the NAAFI?

Comments:

4. Retail facility is vital for local people – especially those on lower incomes
5. Will the retail facility remain open throughout construction phase? This is seen as important
6. Will the shop increase in size? Local retailers would not be happy if it did

vi) Other Facilities

Questions

1. Will the cinema be open to the public?
2. Will the brass band continue on site? Could it be integrated with the REME band?
3. Could space be made available for 'extracurricular activities' such as evening classes?
4. Could there be an internet café for young people to use?
5. Will there be cadet training facilities on site?
6. Will there be an educational 'shop' for people wanting to join the Armed Forces to visit for information?
7. Will the faith centre be used as a community hall? If so, this would compete with the Gathering Place
8. Are you building the faith centre because it sounds good or because there is demand?

Comments

9. Need to have children's play areas near the accommodation – this has happened in the past, but maintenance is a problem
10. St Brise would be good for small groups that can't fit into other locations (cf Cowbridge has rooms for painting, photography etc)
11. To be used effectively, St Brise would need to be heated etc – ready to use whenever you step in

vii) General Comments

Questions

1. Will signs on the site be in dual language (Welsh/English)?
2. Could the development's website include 'fly-throughs'?
3. Are the local police being consulted with?
4. Why is it essential to build on the golf course?
5. The Old Camp used to have an amateur radio club – can we have a new one?
6. There is a fallow area to the north of the camp near the sheds on the boundary fence – can this be kept?
7. The original brief talks about 7.5 acres of masts on site – where will they go?

Comments

8. The redevelopment is on too big a scale for the local area. It will no longer be a rural community

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