



# DICKENS HEATH SPORTS CLUB

Inc Tanworth & Camp Hill Cricket Club and Leaffield Athletic Ladies Football Club  
Rumbush Lane Earlswood B94 5NA

Chairman Peter Carey 07899 873 564: Secretary Dan Hearnden 07956 858 158: Treasurer Mike Shaw 0121 705 1669

## PRESENTATION TO DICKENS HEATH PARISH COUNCIL 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### BACKGROUND

Camp Hill Old Edwardians CC has been based at Rumbush Lane for over 35 years. Six years ago it became apparent that the Club was struggling to maintain their player numbers, partly because the link between the school and their 'Old Boys' was no longer effective and that the aging facilities were detracting members away as the clubhouse was very much in need of complete overhaul. As membership had dropped significantly the club was in serious danger of folding.

Camp Hill approached Tanworth in Arden CC with the notion that the two clubs could benefit by merging as the mix of members age ranges and capabilities dovetailed very neatly. After a year's successful trial both memberships agreed to a full merger in 2010, renaming the joint club Tanworth and Camp Hill Cricket Club. After lengthy legal work the two grounds are now fully owned and registered at the land registry under its new name and with new Trustees appointed.

It soon became clear that financially it was essential that both grounds be fully utilized in order to cover the overheads associated with the two sites.

Leaffield Athletic Ladies FC had been using our Rumbush Lane ground for their juniors to train. They approached us in 2013 to use our ground as their headquarters for their adult and junior teams (comprising 7 teams at different age groups), following difficulties with their current landlord.

This matched our desire to better utilize our facilities and provided additional security over the winter months. Some initial capital was made available

Web sites: **Tanworth** - [www.tachcc.co.uk](http://www.tachcc.co.uk): **Leaffield** - [www.leaffieldathletic.co.uk](http://www.leaffieldathletic.co.uk)

(changing rooms and car park improvement) to accommodate the ladies facilities.

This development has been very successful and the two sports, whilst operating independently, have developed a working partnership, which has contributed to the development of Dickens Heath Sports Club.

The Parish Council have been very supportive of the changes and agreed that a Parish Councillor would represent the village on the Committee. With the proposed relaunching of our new facilities in July that would perhaps be an appropriate time for you the Parish Council to make an appropriate appointment.

## **FUNDING**

It became increasingly obvious that the ageing Rumbush Lane facilities needed upgrading to current health and safety standards if the membership of both sports were to continue to be attracted to the site. In particular the FA requirements for adult premier league football including standard of changing rooms facilities and public toilets, together with ground playing conditions was much greater than that which currently exists.

Having carried out much due diligence and provided a comprehensive 5-year business plan, Sport England and the FA Foundation together agreed to fund our proposed redevelopment of the ground and its facilities to the tune of £310k. This enables extensive drainage of the 2 football pitches either side of the cricket square and a bespoke changing room extension to the existing club house, whose interior will be refurbished to provide public toilets, disabled facilities, and heating.

Both the FA and Sport England have a joint 25-year charge on their investment in our site.

## **CLUB HOUSE AND GROUND**

The overheads for the refurbished Clubhouse are likely to be much greater and therefore its occupancy needs to be improved. We included this in our 5-year business plan. Key to this was to establish the site with a new identity. We want it to be viewed as a Dickens Heath Community Club, for the benefit of the local residents. We have been actively seeking local clubs whose needs match our available facilities.

Our first new group has been the newly formed Scout group that has expressed a keen interest in both our indoor and outdoor facilities.

The enlarged clubroom provides the space and ambiance for parties and clubs. We have a licensed bar and kitchen facilities together with room for indoor sports (e.g. table tennis, pool table, etc). Whilst there is suitable space we do not have the appropriate capital equipment for such activities, which, say, a youth club would need.

We understand that the offices of the Parish Council are not perhaps an ideal venue for the existing youth club and we would like to discuss the possibility of you using our rejuvenated site as the base for such a club. We have modern purpose built indoor facilities with space for the sort of equipment that would attract teenagers together with access to our extensive outdoor sports ground facilities.

We also have access to a suitably qualified person who could act as the youth leader. In addition we have identified an area of approx 300sqm of space available to the front right of the club house that could be used to accommodate "health and well-being" outside fitness equipment accessible for the youth group and available for Youth and Community Access in a supervised location but away from any nuisance to residential neighbours. At the moment Dickens Heath, a large community, has no outdoor recreational facilities other than a small children's play area that is not very well equipped.

The facility could also be used for other sports (rounder's, archery etc), the only restriction being the avoidance of any timing overlap with use of the large fields of play.

The Club itself does not have any funds to provide any of the equipment that would be required and its contribution would be in providing the site with supervision CCTV etc. But, like the arrangement with the FA and SE, the Club accepts the need for a long-term partnership agreement for the MUGA (Multi Use Games Areas) style facility, as we understand SMBC does hold section 106 development funds provided for this purpose.

## **VISION**

Our vision is to provide in perpetuity sporting and community facilities that can be enjoyed by both our members and local residents of Dickens Heath.

By actively linking with local residents, schools and clubs will see a continuous flow of youngsters who could become active recruits to our core sports of cricket and ladies football and create an opportunity for all to live healthier lives.

Please find included with presentation details of the clubs facilities and the clubhouse floor and changing room plans.

The CV of the proposed youth leader is available on request

If you require any further copies of the presentation please E -mail

Philip Webb @ philipsswebb@gmail.com

Pete Carey  
Chairman  
April 2016

## CLUB FACILITIES

### CLUB HOUSE

- Ladies and Gents Toilets
- Disabled Toilet
- Disabled ramp
- Licensed Bar (can be booked for parties over 20)
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Central Heating
- Large Lounge 15.2 x 7.1 – 107 square metre
- Tables and Chairs
- Roller Shutter Windows
- Telephone (pay as you go mobile)
- Viewing Patio
- Changing Rooms for 2 teams – players separate toilets & showers, 2 officials changing rooms toilets and shower
- **OUTSIDE FACILITIES**
- Car park for up to 80 cars
- 5 acres playing field suitable for many outdoor activities
- Cricket Square
- 2 Football pitch's
- Area for well being equipment

