



## **Sturminster Newton Town Council**

**Report Date:** 19 June 26

**Report Author:** Adam Dodson, Grounds Manager

### **Introduction**

The Council recently agreed to submit a pre-application to Dorset Council to get planning advice on a possible two storey building where the existing grounds workshop, mess room and former changing rooms are located at Ricketts Lane recreation ground.

I submitted some basic plans based on feedback from existing youth groups who would be using the facility, namely the Scouts, Brownies/Guides, Boxing Club and Youth Club. It is also worth mentioning that I have been approached by two youth sports clubs who want to play at the recreation ground and would need use of the facilities.

The report has now been received, and the response has been positive.

### **Youth Hub Working Group**

The Youth Hub working group met to discuss the report and next steps.

As the requirements of each group were provided at an earlier meeting, the working group would like the Amenities Committee to recommend to Full Council that a professional is instructed to design and draw plans, in consultation with the groups, that can be considered for approval and used for the planning application. I am getting a quote to do this work which will hopefully be received by the 1 July 26 Full Council meeting for consideration.

### **Funding and Management**

The grant from the Charity of William Williams is still available and the Clerk gives regular updates to the committee on progress of the permanent project and the Unit 2 club. Developer funding will be available from Market Fields in due course.

Other funding options can be investigated when costs are known.

The working group discussed the welcome addition of the Boxing Club to the project. They require more space in order to join [The Fighting Chance – "Improving lives through boxing training"](#) programme. They would like to fund and own part of the building, with a caveat that ownership returns to the Town Council should the club cease to exist.

The Clerk has spoken with the Chair of the Scout group and is waiting for confirmation of expectations regarding surrender of the lease of the Scout building and use/management of the new building.

### **Business Plan**

A detailed business plan cannot be completed until the proposed layout, stakeholder requirements and likely costs are known. Once professional drawings have been prepared and agreed in principle by the relevant parties, the working group will meet with stakeholders to consider the future management, funding, ownership and running costs of the building, and will prepare a proposed business plan for Council consideration.