

Gwersyllt Park Cricket Club



Client Design Statement and Investment Case for the build of an Accessible and Inclusive Cricket Pavilion

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Offering Cricket to our diverse and talented playing squads – The problem statements](#)

[Designing a new and fit for purpose Pavilion – Design and Benefit Statements](#)

[Wider Community Benefits](#)

Introduction

Transforming one of the oldest Cricket Clubs in North Wales into a modern accessible and inclusive sports hub for the communities of Gwersyllt and Bradley

Gwersyllt Park Cricket has a proud heritage of providing sporting activities for local friends and families that span over 130 years. Initially based in the grounds of the old Gwersyllt Hall parkland estate (hence the name) the club was a social pathway for many people who spent vast amounts of their working lives down the local coal mines or working in heavy industry such as iron and steel.

The club moved grounds after the demise of the Gwersyllt Hall towards the southern entrance of the parkland estate in 1971. Since this period, our home has seen vast changes around us as the surrounding lands have been used for sand and gravel extraction, landfill, agriculture and most recently the development of the Alyn Waters Country Park that now encompasses two sides of our ground.

Our facilities have evolved with time from simple wooden sheds to a pre-fab concrete block (currently the existing equipment store) until in 1988 we worked hard to build a new clubhouse on land to the north and across the roadway from the ground.

The cricket changing facilities over the past 30 years have comprised of two basic changing rooms and a communal shower room.

Gwersyllt Park cricket club has grown in importance as part of the local community. We now have over 700 members who attend our club to socialise throughout the year. The cricket opportunities for so many of our local community has increased dramatically over the past 10 years. In addition to our main adult Saturday Teams, we now have a disabled cricket squad (the centre of disabled cricket in the Wrexham area), a female cricket team and youth cricket teams across the 4 key age ranges (U9s, 11s, 13s ad 15s)

We host numerous community events such as young at hearts club (over 60s), Children's Parties, local christenings and funeral wakes, and weekly bingo nights.

Whilst these endeavours ensure we remain at the heart of the local community, we want to be able to provide cricket to all members of our local community in a safe, accessible, and inclusive manner.

Offering Cricket to our diverse and talented playing squads – The problem statements

Old fashioned Changing Facilities that limit our ambitions to be accessible and inclusive

Whilst we have engaged with local players of various backgrounds and abilities, we have unfortunately only been able to offer changing facilities to traditional adult males who are comfortable with the environment that two cramped, dark changing rooms and communal shower room create. Our facilities offer no option for our female, youth, or disabled players to use in a safe and / or inclusive manner. As society changes, we need to upgrade our facilities to offer cricket to everyone.

The changing rooms have also been the subject of complaints from visiting clubs which damages our reputation in the North Wales Cricket League.

The Changing facilities do not create the best conditions for our youth players

Gwersyllt Park Cricket Club ranks amongst the leaders in the Wrexham Area in the provision of Youth Cricket for local players. The club has over 60 youth players from ages 7 – 15 who take part in weekly practice sessions, summer camps and evening / weekend league matches.

In addition, the cricket club have set up parent groups who amongst other things, provide match / coaching day refreshments and undertake fundraising specifically for the youngsters. The club also supports Cricket Wales youth by hosting regional matches for Cricket North Wales and promote national initiatives each year such as 'All Stars and Dynamos'

Of paramount importance in such activities is the safety and wellbeing of young people. In addition to the Coaches (all with DBS clearance) the club has appointed two Child Welfare Officers (CWO's). These operate under the guidance and directives issued, from time to time, at national level by the ECB and Cricket Wales.

The CWO's and the club coaches have all shared concerns about permitting the use of existing changing facilities for youth cricket. As well as the obvious dangers of road safety (below), the changing room doors open from the existing sports car park side of the building and the club has had to be vigilant in avoiding potential security and visibility issues in an area which has constant flows of passers-by / strangers. The Safeguarding of youngsters must be a main priority.

Changing Facilities that create vehicle risk due to access via a busy roadway

Since 1988 when the existing clubhouse was built, the southern access road into the Alyn Waters Country Park which splits the playing pitch from the changing rooms is used more frequently by visitors.

This often creates a safety hazard as players (particularly our younger squads) and parents / supporters have to cross the roadway regularly. There have been a number of near misses reported and whilst there are some speed bumps it is difficult to manage traffic during a match or practice session. During the actual cricket season (22 weeks per year) the facilities are in use most evening and every Saturday / Sunday when the use of the roadway is at its peak.

The old 1970s Pre-Fab Concrete structure degrades the overall appearance of the Cricket Pitch and is a blot of the landscape at the south entrance to the Alyn Waters Country Park

The pre-fab concrete block used as a cricket pavilion from 1971-1988 was converted for use as equipment storage. It protrudes out into the cricket pitch and is in constant need of roof repair (the flat roof has past its life).

As a cricket club we are proud to be neighbours to the Alyn Waters country park and the planted forests that have developed around our ground provide excellent backdrops. We want to enhance the overall image of the southern entrance to the country park and our cricket pitch by demolishing this particular building and siting a new facility further back and in alignment with our practice nets.

Designing a new and fit for purpose Pavilion – Design and Benefit Statements

As this is a cricket pavilion, we aim to comply in the first instance with the requirements of ECB guidance note TS5 (Pavilions and Clubhouses). We have consulted with the ECB who have approved the design in principle and confirmed it will meet the requirements.

There are some specific aims the Gwersyllt Park Cricket Club have in alignment and in some instances, in addition to the ECB Guidance to ensure that the new Facilities form a significant role in both the development of our Cricket and also the impact to the local community.

1 Accessible Cricket Facilities

Design Statement - Our design provides full accessibility to every part of our ground and changing facilities for all players. The new level surface footpath will open up access from the car park onto the pitch, into the changing rooms and around the pitch. All change in levels will be fully compliant with building standards.

Benefit - This will allow players and spectators with disabilities the opportunity to watch / take part in cricket and make use of the changing facilities in an equal manner to everyone else at Gwersyllt Park Cricket Club.

2 Inclusive Cricket Facilities

Design Statement -Our facilities offer separate changing areas in addition to the main changing room that are accessible and private.

Benefit - Our facilities allow people from different genders the opportunity to change in separate facilities to enable diversity and inclusion within our squads for both competitive and friendly fixtures / festivals.

3 Safe Cricket Facilities

Design Statement – Our facilities enable our younger players to change and use the social spaces / amenities with privacy. This will include restricted viewing from external areas and individual shower cubicles.

Benefit - Our facilities enable us to maintain the highest standards in child welfare and offer all players the privacy they may require.

4 Sustainable Cricket Facilities

Design Statement – We will explore the use of renewable energy where possible to limit our carbon usage. We will look at water efficient technology to reduce usage and Heat Recovery ventilation systems. We will also install Bat and Bird Boxes in accordance with our Ecological Assessment and Roosting Survey to promote local wildlife. To plan for future developments, we will also ensure that the design, build and the foundations can enable a 1st Floor extension (this will be taken through planning if it becomes feasible in future years).

Benefit – Gwersyllt Park Cricket Club reduces its carbon footprint and promotes diversity of wildlife in the surrounding country park.

5 Secure Cricket Facilities

Design Statement – To reduce the risk of vandalism / theft, the access points to the building will be constructed of suitable materials and appropriate locking devices. Roller shutter doors will be provided on the front and sides of the building where access is large enough to force entry. Smaller top-level windows will be of a suitable size to prevent forced access. Alarms and existing CCTV that monitor the external areas currently will be reviewed to ascertain if we require additional security features.

Benefit – Our facilities are secure and reduce the risks of theft / vandalism.

6 Hygienic Cricket Facilities

Design Statement – The Cricket Facilities are designed to enable easy cleaning. They have surfaces that are suitable for wet rooms and changing areas. A suitable sports flooring material will be required in all changing areas and amenities that can withstand footwear and traffic flow.

Benefit - Our facilities are clean and hygienic to meet modern standards

7 Appealing and Visually Impactful Cricket Facilities

Design Statement – The cricket facilities will wrap around the existing cricket nets and utilise the free space whilst reducing their impact on the playing surface. Large, extended grey brick Pillars and white rendered inset finishes provide a bold design structure that offers a modern interpretation of the historic North Welsh Castles. The colour scheme contrasts well with the surrounding forested areas and mirrors the colour schemes of the existing Alyn Waters Country Park Visitor Centre located in the main West Entrance.

Benefit – Our new facilities raise the profile of the cricket club, form a suitable part of the entrance to the south side of the Alyn Waters Country Park and improve the overall impression of the Gwersyllt and Bradley communities.

Wider Community Benefits

The communities of Gwersyllt and Bradley have invested heavily in providing local amenities to their inhabitants over the past 50 years. The Cricket Club is at the heart of the community together with the adjacent Bowls Club and activity centre.

The development of the new Cricket Club Facilities and the new footpaths will enhance the overall social spaces that rest between Gwersyllt and Bradley, it will provide the residents with a new local landmark that is recognisable to residents as a sign of improvement and progress.

From a playing perspective Gwersyllt Park aim to increase the number of participants in the local area who are involved with Cricket. We want to see increased participation of women and young people in the sport and encourage friends and families to become involved. The new Cricket Facilities will attract more people to our club and enable us to invest in the community on a similar basis as other local cricket clubs in North Wales who have received similar development in facilities over the past 20 years.