Quarry Pavilion – Public consultation summary

As part of the city wide pavilion improvement programme we have held a public consultation event to gain the views of the local community in respect of the proposed development of a new pavilion at Quarry Recreation Ground on Margaret Road.

We have sought comments on how we could potentially improve the design to ensure that it is effective as possible for its potential users and wider community. The main user at the site is Quarry Rovers Football Club and they have been a key stakeholder throughout this process.

The consultation process involved key stakeholder meetings with the main user Quarry Rovers FC and local councillors. There has also been a survey available on the Councils e-consult website for four weeks from 4th March 2015 to the 2nd April 2015. A public consultation open evening was held on the 31st March 2015 and was attended by over 30 people. The key stakeholders including local councillors, Quarry Rovers Football Club and community groups have supported in the publicity of the consultation delivering flyers within the local community.

In total we have received 9 formal responses through e-consult and a further 5 written responses (by direct email). The main areas of feedback are as follows

Location of the pavilion/Loss of green space
The vast majority of responses indicated the local community are opposed to the relocation of the pavilion and resultant loss of green space. Concerns were raised over the proximity of the car park to the play area and the visual impact of the car parking and new pavilion on the overall look and feel of the park. 100% of attendees at the public consultation opposed the existing site plan.

*Actions* - We have taken on board the comments from the key stakeholders and the local community. We have now produced a revised design that utilises the majority of the existing footprint. The revised plans will be communicated to the key stakeholders and, be subject to the necessary planning approvals.

Car parking
Again the majority of responses have indicated that they feel there is either no need for a car park or that it would need to be scaled back as the impact of this on the park itself was too great. 100% of attendees at the public consultation opposed the existing site plan.

*Actions* – We have taken on board comments from the key stakeholders and local community. We have now produced a revised design that utilises the majority of the existing footprint for the pavilion. The parking has been significantly reduced from 28 spaces to 5. Some car parking was retained to enable effective use at other times during the week. The car park will be largely the same size as the existing car park and will be strictly managed in accordance with Oxford City Councils terms and conditions with any users. The car park will not be open access and will only be accessible for pre-booked users. The revised plans will be communicated to the key stakeholders and, be subject to the necessary planning approvals.
Floor plan design
Two responses suggested that the existing layout would not allow for maximum usage in particular from the football club as the changing rooms take up too much room. They have suggested additional toilets or changing rooms should be created.

Actions – The changing rooms have been built in line with Sport England (industry) requirements and there are no plans to change this as they facilitate inclusive, effective use. We would be unable to provide any additional changing facilities other than the original as cost would be prohibitive. We would continue to work with the club so that usage was maximised.

Lack of storage space
One response indicated the layout does not provide enough storage space for the football club.

Actions – The building meets Sport England (industry) guidelines. However, we have included additional storage space in both the changing area and the community space.

Overall design aesthetics
Several comments fed back that the overall design lacked imagination and scope. Several examples of existing pavilions were given including Cholsey Pavilion, Maggie’s Centre and the new Oxford Brookes Building.

Actions – Overall budget for the project would not allow for a large scale expansion in line with some of the examples given.

Access to allotments
At the public consultation event a lack of access to the allotments as well as general access routes into the park for users.

Recommendations – We will ensure that appropriate access to the allotments is maintained.

Fit trails/additional facilities
At the public consultation it was suggested that due to the high level of use of the park consideration should be given to additional play/sport facilities

Recommendations – This is outside the scope of this consultation but should be considered as part of the wider planning for the use of the park.

Green technologies
At the public consultation suggestions were given as to how the project could include more green technologies including PV panels, rain water harvesting and grey water.
**Recommendations** – We will look to explore energy efficient, low carbon and water conservation adaptations. It is unlikely that we will use PV’s due to the lower usage of these facilities limiting the return.

**General comments**
- Pavilion needs to be robust to protect against vandalism
  - This has been considered throughout the design process and remains a crucial element of the overall project. A detailed design specification of the security will be part of the planning application.
- What shelter is going to be provided on site?
  - This is outside the scope of this consultation but should be considered as part of the wider planning for the use of the park.
- Need to protect and enhance the play area
  - This is outside the scope of this consultation but should be considered as part of the wider planning for the use of the park.

**What now?**
An indicative plan has been drawn up that highlights the general proposals (please see attachment)

Oxford City Council is now working with Mace and B3 Architects to propose a full planning application for the new pavilion. This will follow the formal planning process and be open for public consultation by Autumn 15.