

## **Friday 3rd November 2017 Public Meeting at Potters Mede**

**Public Questions :** *Thanks for arranging this meeting with us.*

*We would like to ask the council a few questions concerning the community facilities at Potters Mede.*

*To be clear we see ourselves as representing the local residents and wish to gain understanding and clarify how we can help and support the council to maximise and improve what we believe are the underused but excellent facilities we have at Potters Mede.*

*I would therefore be grateful if the council can answer the following questions before we follow with any open questions and answers.*

- 1. What is the purpose and usage of Potters Mede and what is the council and the steering committee's vision for the future of the facility?*
- 2. Are we able to get a second team to utilise the football pitches at this facility and if not/why not, and what restrictions are there?*
- 3. Can we get more public use out of the existing building (based on its licenses etc) or are there steps in place (ie: change of license) to be able to provide greater usage from the community and to increase revenue or offset costs of local amenities?*
- 4. Does the council have any commitment to have the carpark resurfaced as its current state is a cause for concern and potentially likely to result in injury or damage to users?*

*We request that these issues are now included as a specific item to be minuted and discussed at your December Committee meeting.*

*We want the local facilities here to assist in creating a vibrant community hub for the benefit of all in the Borough Green and local area.*

## **Parish Council Response & Recommendations formally adopted 6th Nov 2017**

Potters Mede was shut from 2007 - 2013, and during that 6 years our regular hirers found other venues, so we expect a return to full use to be a slow process. The Parish Council has a statutory responsibility to maintain the facilities whether or not they generate enough income, and whilst we will not undercut other local venues, there is a clear benefit to maximising the revenue to reduce the impact of operating costs on the public purse.

1&3 Consensus of the meeting was to set up a "working group" composed of interested members of the public, with one PC as a liaison, to use PC funding to advertise and promote the building and facilities, including the pitches.

2. The large pitch has been restricted to one team because of slow grass growth. It is likely that this extra pitch will be released to BGJFC for the 2018/19 season. Increased use of the pitches beyond that will require increased maintenance costs, and demand will be reviewed on a regular basis.

4. Repair of the potholes is already in hand. To ensure those repairs last the gate will be locked and keys issued to hirers. Since 2013 the PC has put £5k pa into the General Fund towards eventual surfacing should demand increase.

## **Notes from Inaugural meeting Potters Mede Action Group**

Following our meeting with representatives of the council on Friday 4th November it was suggested that a Potters Mede Action Group should be established to promote the facilities as an asset to be utilised to the benefit of Borough Green and surrounding villages.

To this end I can confirm that we have formed a Potters Mede Action Group of local residents, business owners and interested parties. I am prepared to act as chairman of this group and have established a committee of 6 representatives to act to this end. Further to that a member of the council will be co-opted onto the committee in order to allow access to resources, funding and advice.

The primary aim of this working group is to work hand in hand with the other local amenities, businesses and the Parish Council to promote the venue and its facilities to the benefit of the local area. Our primary purposes are therefore as follows:

1. To enhance potential usage to the benefit of children, young adults and local residents
2. To publicise the facilities on offer to the community and wider areas.
3. To develop strategies to encourage greater and positive use of the facilities.
4. To establish and agree fundraising activities for the benefit of the facility in particular and for the parish in general.
5. To have an overview, but not responsibility, of the activities and events taking place in order to assist and support promotion of the facility.
6. To make proposals and recommendations on maintenance and development of the facility under the guidance and support of the existing services and Parish Council.
7. To act as a liaison regarding events and activities co-ordination.

I hope that this group will be of benefit to the community as a whole and that Potters Mede will become the Community Hub of the village and surrounding area.

If the above is accepted by the council please minute these aims in your next meeting and to put forward a suggestion as to who would be prepared to be co-opted onto our committee. Our preferred councillor would be Scott Millener, is he is prepared to work with us.

Thank you for your positive response to our suggestions to date and we look forward to working with you in a spirit of co-operation for the future and development of Potters Mede.

Bryan Rawlins  
PMAG Chairman