

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

The future of the sports pavilion

November 2023

Dear Parishioner,

As many of you know the sports pavilion on our recreation ground is in extremely poor condition. It has recently become unusable following several break-ins. Perhaps finding nothing worth stealing, vandals have contented themselves by causing extensive (and expensive) damage to the interior.

Currently, there is no regular football or cricket team and the pavilion is used only for annual events including the Primary School Fun Day and Sports Day. Even so, each year the pavilion still costs the Parish a significant amount of money in insurance, up-keep, maintenance and utility bills. It is also an unfortunate fact of Rother life that the pavilion, although several feet above ground level, is regularly flooded. This causes increased concern in regard to health and safety and has meant that we are unable to provide full kitchen facilities.



Whilst the future of our pavilion has always been on our minds, the recent increase in vandalism has escalated the need for the village to find a resolution.

Therefore, we would like to seek the thoughts of our community – residents and families who have, perhaps, used the facilities? Even better, perhaps one of you can come up with an inspired idea about its future! However, when considering these options, please also consider how often it is likely to be used? Aside from the few events listed earlier, the reality is that there is little demand from both event organisers and sports clubs.

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For those who have never been inside the pavilion, it has showers, lavatories, basic catering facilities as well as sports changing rooms.

The Parish Council has drawn up a shortlist of possible options (in approximate order of increasing expense) as follows.

1. De-commission the pavilion altogether or pay to have it taken down.
2. Strip the interior fittings including the kitchen and showers leaving just the lavatories and storage.
3. Repair the damage in full and improve security with vandal-proof door and window covers, security lighting and intruder alarm system.

Quote has been provided by local builder for 3 UPVC windows, 3 doors and exterior repairs for £9638. This does not include interior repairs or additional security.

4. Replace or rebuild, perhaps in the area of the recreation ground which does not flood.

a) Conventional timber framed pavilion

This would be impossible to fund as a Parish Council. Funding may be accessible via a combination of grants and fund-raising activities, but with an estimated investment required between £150,000 to £250,000, would not be easy or quick to achieve.

b) Reused shipping container

An option currently being considered by the well-resourced Northiam Parish Council is to create a replacement pavilion from several inter-linked steel shipping containers. Sidley Cricket Club has also recently acquired a reused container which provides a reasonable changing area and washroom facilities. Whilst costs vary significantly from supplier to supplier, our brief research suggests that we could acquire a small cabin with washroom facilities for between £7,500 to £20,000 plus installation costs.



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We have looked briefly at the challenges regarding financial support and funding which may help you choose an option.

Yes, there are many pots of money available, usually on a 20% match funding basis, to help finance community and sporting projects. For example, Rother District Council Community Grant, the Biffa Award, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Morrison Foundation and the Football Foundation (not in fact limited to football). In fact, Northiam's football team hopes to tap Sports England and the Lottery for money. However, in the absence of regular sports, Bodiam is perhaps in a weak position to apply. Also, possible funders might also be looking to support projects in districts with more than the 300 or so residents in Bodiam!

To help us make the right decision for the village, we would appreciate your thoughts and feedback. Please either e-mail or return the attached form to us with your choice from our list or let us have any other ideas.

Warm regards,

Linda Stevens

Chair, Bodiam Parish Council

The questionnaire can be completed electronically by scanning the QR code:



Or you can complete the attached paper copy.

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Questionnaire

NAME (optional): _____

ADDRESS (optional): _____

From the listed options, I prefer <i>(please ring your choice)</i>	1	2	3	4a	4b
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I have a better idea!

Are there any other issues affecting the village which you believe the Parish Council should be addressing?

Do you have any suggestions on how the community of Bodiam could be enhanced?

Please remember that agendas and minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available at www.bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk and we always welcome local residents to come along and raise questions/issues at the meetings.

Please return this Questionnaire or e-mail your reply to Bodiam Parish Council.

Post: BPC c/o Lynsey Willard, 34 Levetts Lane, Bodiam, TN32 5UL

Email: clerkbodiam@hotmail.co.uk

CLLr Nick Gilbert CLLr Tim Porter *Vice Chair* CLLr Darren Page CLLr Graham Peters CLLr Linda Stevens *Chair*