

Building for Lingfield's Sporting Future



Our vision is to provide everyone in our community with the opportunity to participate in sport - whether as a player, coach or spectator, now and for future generations.

Lingfield Sports Association Development

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Introduction

Lingfield Sports Association and our three current constituent clubs (Acorns AFC, Lingfield CC and Lingfield FC) are seeking to extend the lease on the Godstone Road ground. This will enable us to seek significant investment to improve the ground and clubhouse, neither of which are fit for purpose at present.

Serving, at last count, 281 adult and 487 junior members, plus supporters, friends and family, the Sports Association is at the centre of village life. However, over 26 home football matches have been moved to alternative facilities in the last season alone because of flooding and pitch unavailability. More matches are lost in wetter winters.

The clubhouse requires significant investment to bring changing facilities up to acceptable standards and to create an environment suitable for additional village activities. As things stand, the clubhouse neither meets the guidelines set by the Sports Governing Bodies nor complies with fire safety recommendations.

Our members are keen to fundraise to improve drainage works and clubhouse facilities, but none of this is possible without a long-term lease extension.

Why improvements are required

The ground

The pitches have very poor drainage, leading to total waterlogging every winter. As a result matches and training need to be moved to alternative premises at considerable cost.

A 2016 FA Pitch Maintenance Programme Report stated “drainage is the single biggest issue with this ground”.

In 2020, a Surrey Cricket inspection found “for the longer term, to bring the cricket outfield and football pitches up to an acceptably usable standard will require water management”.

Despite receiving only 30% of our usual rainfall in January 2022, this season has still seen 26 home matches moved and the twice-weekly training could not take place between the end of November and early April. Note that 46 matches were cancelled on the ground in the 2015-16 season.

In addition to lost revenue from spectators and bar/catering takings, the minimum cost of hiring pitches is £161 but can reach as high as £570.

The cost of moving training to a local school has cost an additional £500 this season.

The high cost of using additional grounds when ours is unplayable leads to financial stress on the clubs when instead we could be investing in additional facilities.

The clubhouse

The clubhouse is in need of serious renovation. This is not from a cosmetic perspective but a very practical one. Other than a new roof in 2002, the building is largely unchanged since its construction in 1958.

- The current changing/shower facilities do not meet the standards set by the FA or the ECB.
- The building also failed a fire safety inspection recently.
- The kitchen is not suitable for use.
- The premises can be difficult for disabled members to use.
- With increasing use by women players and women officials, additional segregated changing facilities are required.
- It is also recommended that U18s do not change in the same area as adults.

The clubhouse sits redundant most of the week because it cannot be hired commercially or even offered freely to community groups given its poor state of repair and the lack of facilities.

Planned improvements

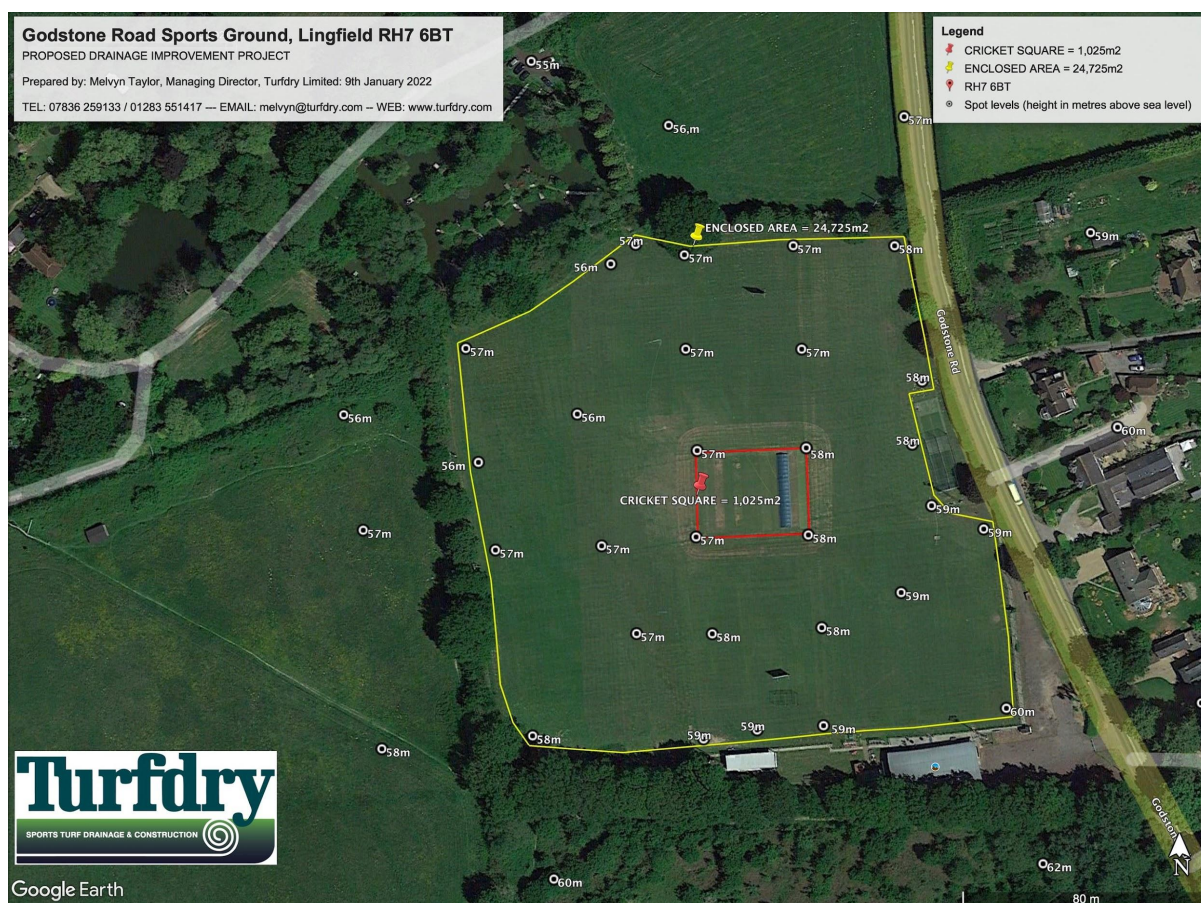
The ground

Full pitch drainage is required and has been scoped. This will cost a minimum of £163,000 but will allow us almost 100% use throughout the winter.

Full winter availability will enable us to bring additional sports to the club, including Walking Football for example (closest facilities are in Redhill) as well as offering greater playing and training facilities for our men's, women's and children's football teams.

In time, we plan to raise additional funds to create more sports facilities which could include a running track, tennis courts, a bowling green etc. However, our first focus will be to serve the three constituent clubs as we build financial stability.

Additional future developments will include improved parking (to ensure our success does not impact on local roads and residents).



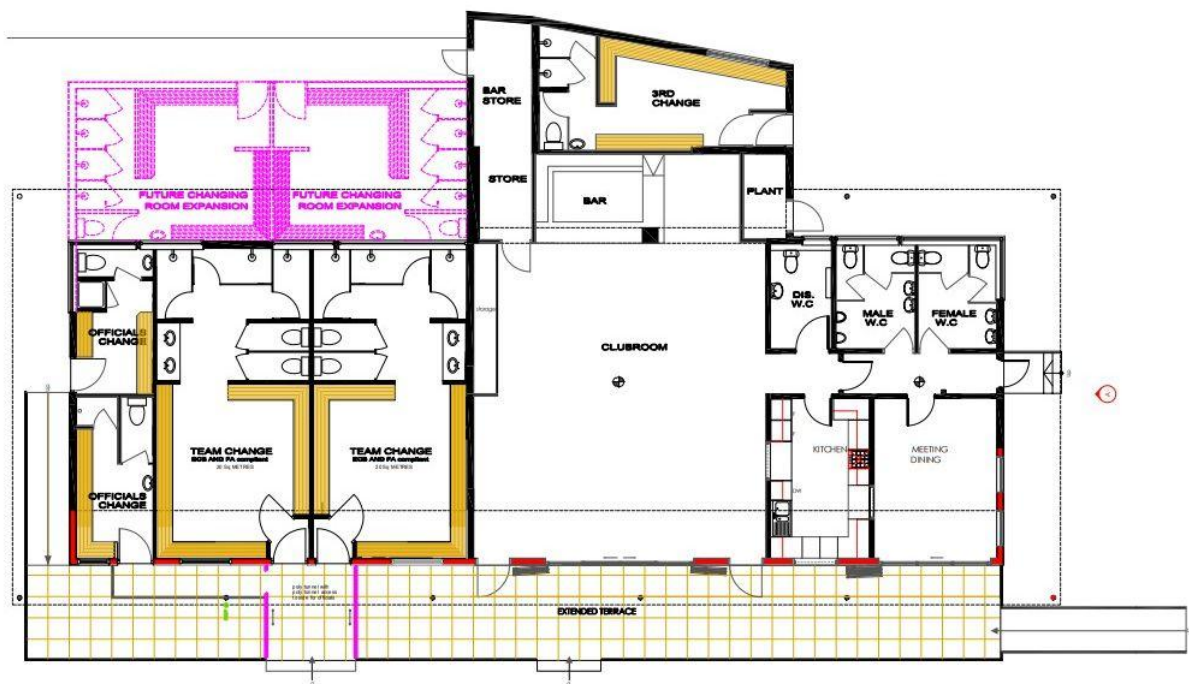
Drainage Plans

The clubhouse

Our plans for the clubhouse development will provide:

- Improved changing/showering facilities to bring us up to recommended standards.
- Common areas which can be hired and used by additional community groups.
- An upgraded kitchen which complies with food safety standards.
- Compliance with current fire safety standards.
- Better access for disabled members and spectators.
- Improved insulation and energy efficiency.

A Proposed Design from Sports Clubhouses Architects



Floor Plan

The estimated cost for this development is £478,000 plus VAT. The two additional changing rooms to the rear are estimated to cost a further £125,000 plus VAT.

Financing our developments

Lingfield Sports Association is currently working with a number of organisations to raise the finance for this project. It should be noted that most grant-awarding bodies will not be able to commit to investment while the Association has only a short period remaining on its lease.

We are currently applying to the following:

- CIL funding
- Your Fund Surrey
- Lingfield Parish Council
- Premier League Grant
- Football Foundation
- ECB County Grant Fund
- National Lottery
- BIFFA Landfill Grant
- Gatwick Airport Community Trust

Into the Future

Looking further ahead, we have two other goals:

- Rainwater Harvesting
- Extending the Playing Area into the North Field



Our clubs

Lingfield Cricket Club

Although the club badge states c1750 there is evidence of cricket being played in Lingfield further back. Indeed we have a record of Lingfield having played cricket as long ago as 1728, and an account of a match between the gentlemen of Lingfield and the gentlemen of London on 18th June 1739.

The club is a thriving one with over 200 children from 4 upwards. It provides opportunities for girls and boys equally and boasts 4 league sides as well as social cricket teams including veterans.

It is proud to be a community club with players largely drawn from the village and surrounding neighbourhood. It would seem to have been playing at the present ground for very many years.

Lingfield Football Club

The Football Club was founded in 1893 and moved to join the cricket club at Godstone Road over 60 years ago. It plays against teams from all over the South East and regularly attracts over 50 supporters to its matches.

The well-run associated junior section provides football for over 200 local children. They also run an U23 team and a veterans team.

AFC Acorns Womens' Team

Only formed in 2020, Acorns have grown impressively and run three womens' teams and one girls (U12) team.

Plans for next season include expanding both senior and junior membership even further. They are successful not only in attracting many new women players but also with their results, with the first team winning their league this season.

Lingfield Running Club

Not yet full members of the LSA, they have expressed interest in joining in 2023 assuming we can improve the clubhouse and ground facilities.

Lingfield Running Club has a friendly and sociable approach to running and currently has 200 members ranging in age from the 20s to over 70. Their members' running interests are very diverse and range from jogging for the sake of fitness to running distances ranging from fun runs through to marathons and beyond. "We cater for a wide range of abilities – hares and tortoises!"

Our partnership with Tandridge District Council

We have had a long relationship with Tandridge as tenants of the ground. We now ask that we are granted a lease long enough to allow us to recoup the investment we plan to make in the Council's property.

Our constituent clubs have 768 Tandridge residents as members at present - this could be so many more with better facilities. The health benefits we offer our members are obvious: the social inclusion, mental health and wellbeing benefits of having a vibrant Sports Association will be immeasurable for our community.

In addition to the major investment in the council-owned ground and clubhouse, we are prepared to take on responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the property on the basis of having a long-term lease of at least 25 years. We have produced budget forecasts to include generating the income necessary for this.

We look forward to continuing our endeavours in conjunction with Tandridge District Council to provide great sporting facilities.

