

Dunkeld & Birnam Sports and Leisure Hub

Proposed MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) : Q&A

Issue 2 - August 2020

Supplementary questions received from the membership on the MUGA proposal.

Q1 re Costs, section 5 in Proposal: what are projected operational / running costs and how would they be met?

Response – a MUGA is intrinsically a low maintenance and low operating cost sports facility. There are 4 elements that should be considered:

- a) The type of court surface has yet to be determined however it is anticipated it would be of a similar build-up to that of the upgraded tennis courts. Costs associated with maintenance and cleaning requirements would be similar to that of the tennis courts and we anticipate the membership undertaking these efforts on a voluntary basis. Life expectancy of the surface would likely be between 10 to 15 years.
- b) The lighting would again be similar to that installed at the tennis courts and would adopt the latest LED lamps. Based on our operating period since installation the LED tennis lights are working out at under £80 per annum. The cost of this is contained within the tennis membership. It is anticipated that a similar strategy would be adopted for the MUGA, with non-members likely charged for applicable lighting costs as part of their playing fee.
- c) The roofing membrane would have minimal on-going maintenance however it would likely have a lifespan in the region of 20 years and as per SportScotland recommendations the club would set up an on-going sinking fund to deal with future replacement of this and also the future courts resurfacing and re-lamping of lights. This is the model recently adopted by the tennis club for our future capital costs.
- d) It is to be noted that this type of facility has no staffing needs and therefore no associated staffing costs. This is an operating model that is consistent with the Sports Hub existing facilities. Similarly there are no heating costs.

Q2 what are the projected costs of acquiring and surfacing the alternative car parking area? not clear if this is included in the figures shown but suspect not?

Response – the alternative car park solution is being progressed on the basis of the Hub agreeing a sub-lease with the council (who presently sub-lease the land from the church) for a 20-year period. As the council pay a minimal charge for the sub-let of the entire football field we anticipate a similar minimal cost for our sub-lease of a portion of this area. Discussions are progressing positively with the church and council on this. On the basis of these positive discussions quotations have been obtained from local groundworks contractors for the installation of compacted hardcore surfacing to the proposed car park area. The likely cost is in the region of £12,000. A significant portion of this amount has been generated by the Hub to date. The aim is to progress this at the earliest to allow the use of the existing car park for netball and basketball.

Q3 what sports / activities which might be provided in a "traditional building"(Bridge 27 June) cannot be provided for in a MUGA (covered or not). Para 2 in the letter dated 24 June to members seems to imply that a like for like comparison is being made?

Response – one of the main differences between a conventional indoor sports facility and a MUGA (covered or otherwise) is that the MUGA is not a temperature-controlled environment. The air will remain generally at ambient temperature. A covered MUGA with wind netting to the sides will provide protection from wind, rain, snow etc and will allow a wide range of activities to take place year round, such as those suggested in our proposal paper: 5-a-side football, tennis, netball, basketball, hockey,

touch rugby, fitness training, exercises classes, school games etc. Activities that require a temperature controlled environment to take place such as low intensity exercise classes, Pilates, YOGA etc would not be well suited to a MUGA, especially during the colder months. For many of these temperature sensitive activities there exists a number of alternative venues within the community that can accommodate them. As an example the Hub have trialled the use of our existing clubhouse for fitness classes last winter and we hope to build upon this. There are examples of badminton being played in a covered MUGA, however as it is not a controlled environment wind impact on play on a particularly windy day cannot be ruled out.

The other main difference is that the MUGA surface will most likely be a tarmac base with a sports surface top application (a similar base to the tennis courts). Therefore sports or activities, such as gymnastics, that require a sprung floor type base would not be suited to the MUGA. The eventual sports surface selected will inevitably be a compromise to suit as wide a range of sports and activities as possible, rather than a surface that is specifically tailored to one sport. This principle would apply equally to an internal sports hall.

Q4 re usage/ interest in various sports / activities: the response to Q5 in the Q and A issue 1 indicates you are looking for feedback but the invitation to members vote sent out on 9th doesn't ask this. How are you looking for the feedback?

Response – we are encouraging feedback from all interested parties, be it via a phone call, email, formal questions, a chat with members of the Hub committee etc. Feedback on this basis has been highly supportive to date. A presentation on our future plans, including the MUGA, was made at the end of 2019 to the members and feedback provided was taken on board in preparing the MUGA proposal paper. Direct representations have been made to user groups we hope will look to use this facility such as the local primary school. Should the membership support the MUGA proposal we expect a specific future users group would be set up to firm up on what sports, activities we should plan for in detail. This feedback will be important in determining what top surface we decide to install and what lines are marked out on the MUGA.

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