



## Project Update No 3: February 2023

This third update for Podsmead residents and other stakeholders is to share how the plans for the Blackbridge Community and Sports Hub are developing, including updates on timelines and development activity.

Thank you to everyone for the continuing feedback we have received, and to the representatives of local resident groups and community organisations who we have had numerous constructive conversations with. This dialogue has been so important that we have continued this process into 2023 and every comment is being read and carefully considered.

We continue to aim to create a project that will allow local residents to have open access to the site and undertake all the activities they currently use the field for, but also offer added value in terms of improved facilities for health and wellbeing, social and community activities, and organised sport.



Long view across the field after development



## What has happened since the last project update in August?

Blackbridge CCBS and its project team have continued to develop the design taking into account local feedback and suggestions. Changes and developments have included:

- Adjustments to proposals for extra residents parking on Laburnum Road to reduce the environmental impact as suggested by local residents.
- Traffic and parking surveys have been completed and traffic management proposals have been developed which focus on stopping illegal parking at junctions to ensure safe movement of people and vehicles along Laburnum Road.
- Improvements to disabled facilities in the Community Hub to ensure the Blackbridge site is as inclusive as possible, including the provision of new Changing Places facilities.
- The 3G pitch has been moved further away from the Crypt School hedge line to create a 'bat corridor'.
- Improvements have been made to the Hub building so that it can better meet the needs of particular groups such as young people and children.
- Two part time youth workers have been employed by Blackbridge CCBS to begin to develop young people's activities which can eventually be moved into the Hub and extended.
- Further support has come from a number of stakeholders such as Gloucester City Council and local sports clubs.
- In recent days soil sampling on site with some bore holes and trial trenches have been undertaken. These tests have now been completed and the sites refilled. This soil sampling helps the project to check its drainage proposals.

Blackbridge CCBS is now pulling together all of these reports to support the project's planning application which will be submitted in February 2023. These associated reports along with the planning application will be published and available for inspection by local residents on the City Council's planning website.

## What is the Blackbridge Charitable Community Benefit Society (Blackbridge CCBS)?

The Blackbridge CCBS is a community organisation with entirely charitable objectives established at the end of 2021. The Podsmead Big Local has also asked the Blackbridge CCBS to help deliver their legacy plan which includes leading the development of the Blackbridge Community and Sports Hub.

## Is there a need for the development?

Sport England have previously issued the following statement: 'Sport England along with the Football Association, England Hockey, the Rugby Football Union, the English Cricket Board and the Gloucestershire Active Partnership have all been working with the City Council for a number of years in the development and delivery of this project. This is because there is proven need for this development which is backed up by nationally recognised methodology.'

## What about the proposal to build 30 new homes?

The proposals to build 30 homes by New Dawn View are being brought forward by Gloucestershire County Council and not Blackbridge CCBS. Gloucestershire County Council will be issuing its own information leaflet on their proposals in the next few weeks which will be distributed to residents in close proximity to the site.

For further information on the Blackbridge Community and Sports Hub development please email Mark Gale at [mark@blackbridge.org.uk](mailto:mark@blackbridge.org.uk)

