

Holland Sports Club - New Clubhouse – BPC Statement January 2026



Introduction

This purpose of this communication from Barton Parish Council is to explain the reasons why the Council proposes to make a significant financial contribution to the construction of a new Clubhouse for Holland Sports Club.



The Parish Council recognises the special and important place that Holland Sports Club has in the life of the village.

Over the 60+ years that the Club has been operating many thousands of families in the village have benefited directly or indirectly from the use of the Sports Club facilities.

There are currently about 1200 playing members, about 200 non-playing members, and 2600 family associate members. Many parents of Junior members volunteer with HSC as Coaches or helpers and, whilst young people come to learn to play sport, the Club – its Coaches and volunteers – are carrying out important youth development work especially since Staffordshire County Council closed all its 34 Youth Clubs in 2014, including the one in Barton.

Many more people have visited the Club from outside the village, either as members or families of visiting teams or as visitors to events organised at the Club, and used both the Club facilities and the wider village amenities, including shops, cafes and pubs.

The current project represents an amazing opportunity to provide a modern clubhouse to support sports and recreation in the village for many years to come.

When and how was Holland Sports Club established?

The existing Clubhouse and the land on which it sits are owned by the Parish Council with HSC paying a peppercorn lease to the Council.

The land together with adjacent pitches and the Barton Fishpond, was gifted to the village for Sports and Recreation use in 1962 by the Holland Family. The Holland Sports Club was formed and the oldest part of the existing Club buildings were erected by founding members and volunteers in 1963 - a 'second hand' timber pavilion building that was re-located from the Bass Sports Club site in Burton.

The original buildings have been added to over the years but maintaining the current set up has become increasingly expensive due to the age and type of structure.



Why do we need a replacement clubhouse?

The buildings are in poor condition and no longer meet the requirements of the different clubs that use the site (Football, Cricket, Rugby Football, Tennis and Tug of War as well as users of the MUGA). The current facilities don't meet the minimum standards of the relevant sports governing bodies and so are deemed by them as being unsuitable for playing competitive 'league' sports. It's not a practical or cost effective proposition to try carry out a major refurbishment.

The changing rooms are inadequate - because they are not fully inclusive and accessible. Sport and outdoor activities should be capable of being enjoyed by everybody in the community to promote physical and mental health and social well-being.

If sporting activity can no longer be played at the Club, then the income that keeps the Club going collapses and the Club would need to be wound up.



What would happen if HSC becomes financially unviable or wound up?

If HSC is wound up it leaves the Parish Council with a building that would be difficult to let to any other organisation, with a high probability that it would remain vacant and, due to the remoteness of the site, be at risk of becoming derelict.

Ultimately for public safety the Parish Council would need to demolish the buildings and clear the site which, on current estimates, would in itself cost in the order of £50,000 - £60,000 and that outlay would be entirely 'lost' money. To fulfil its duty under the original deed of gift BPC would need to fund a replacement Clubhouse.





What is actually being proposed as a replacement Clubhouse?

Holland Sports Club made a Planning Application to East Staffordshire Borough Council in November 2024 for a replacement Clubhouse and that the application was approved in May 2025. The Planning Reference number is P/2024/01238 and full details of the application are available on the East Staffs BC Planning page at:

<https://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/MVM/Online/dms/DocumentViewer.aspx?PK=641801&SearchType=Planning%20Application>

The ground floor comprises a large function room (with an adjacent area that can be screened off to create a smaller room); a bar with cellar, store and kitchen; 4 changing rooms with toilets and shower cubicles, 2 small changing rooms for match officials, two changing rooms for gym use; a physio room, plus office, plant room, and a storeroom as well as male and female toilets to serve the function rooms,

On the first floor there is an area for a gym plus a studio for coaching or for hire. The first floor would be served by both stairs and a lift.



Exploded Model view



Elsigood Architectural *Artemis Architectural*



What is the current state of the fund-raising?

The total project is estimated to cost circa £1.2m.

The Club has been exceedingly fortunate to have secured very significant funding from the Mercer Family as major sponsors of the project.

Following considerable local publicity and fund-raising activities, HSC has raised £86,000.

The Club has also applied for funding to local and national funding bodies such as The Community Foundation for Staffordshire, the National Lottery and the Postcode Lottery as well as to National Sports bodies such as the Football Foundation.

Other potential funders approached have been the Burton Combined Charities and the Barton Dunstall and Key Trust.



What support is Barton Parish Council proposing to give to the project?

As the owners of the Sports Club and HSC's landlord, Barton under Needwood Parish Council have supported the aspiration for a new clubhouse and the council proposes to also provide financial support.

The Parish Council propose to make a donation of £100,000 to fund the changing rooms in the New Clubhouse by taking out a Public Works Loan Board loan over a 10 year term.

Annual payments comprising interest and equal instalments of principal (EIP) will amount to approximately £12,800.

Barton Parish Council proposes to fund the Year 1 payment in 2026/27 out of Reserves and thereafter raise the loan repayments by an increase in the annual Parish Precept (the proportion of householder's Council Tax paid to East Staffs Borough Council which is allocated by them to the Parish Council).

Paying for this loan represents an annual increase of 12.3% or about £5.50 for a Band D property (depending on interest rates when the loan is taken out) for the approx. 2000 properties in the village – which is about 11p a week.



Why should I pay this money on my Council Tax when I don't use the Sports Club?

Barton Parish Council believes that providing financial support to help build the New Clubhouse allows the Council to fulfil its duty under the original Deed of Gift of the site and provides modern, energy efficient sports and social amenities that meet the needs of the Club members and sports teams and the work that the many volunteers who run those teams do.

In particular it encourages and supports the many 100's of young people in our community who train and play at Holland Sports Club. Many other families and young people who may not be members of sports teams also regularly use the Club and its facilities. The Club is proposing to build on this, with the support of other village community groups and advice from external agencies, to run a Youth Club at HSC.

Where can I find out more on this?

More information about the New Clubhouse project can be found on the Holland Sports Club website here: <https://www.hollandsportsclub.org/new-club-house>

Please use this QR code or the URL link to access our consultation on funding.

<https://forms.gle/CBFYTwDR5GHSWQoX9>



More information about the Parish Council can be found here:

<https://www.bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk/>

The Councillors are ably supported by the Parish Clerk, who is available in the Parish Office at the Village Hall during the following times:

Monday 10am - 12pm
Wednesday 1pm - 3pm
Thursday 1pm - 3pm

For any queries please contact the Parish Clerk by phone or email in the first instance.
Tel: 01283 716059 Email: clerk@bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk