

BARNACK PARISH COUNCIL

Multi-Use Games Area

Report of Public Meeting to evaluate proposal for using Barnack Cricket Field

Meeting held in Barnack Village Hall on 13.07.15 at 6.00pm.

Welcome by the Parish Council Chairman, Harry Brassey.

Introduction by Martin Bloom, Chairman of MUGA Working Group:

1. Over 2½ years ago the Parish council put forward the idea of a MUGA in the village.
2. A MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) is about the size of a tennis court and is used for: Tennis, 5 a side Football, Kwik Cricket, Basketball, Netball, for all ages and all residents, not just for 'the young'.
3. At a village open meeting in April 2013 we received unanimous approval for the project.
4. The site suggested then was area between the Cricket and Bowls Clubs.
5. Land was to be donated by Darby Dennis owner of Walcot Hall.
6. Unfortunately, the Dennis family withdrew their consent. They then proposed some land the other side of the Cricket Field overlooking Ufford. The Dennis family then withdrew their consent to that proposal.
7. We have spent the last 18 months looking for a new site.
8. To answer a few questions raised by residents in that time:
 - a. Burghley land – none available.
 - b. School grounds – no, because of safeguarding issues.
 - c. School grounds – no, because use in School times is ruled out.
 - d. Land east of Chapel Lane owned by Peterborough Diocesan Board – initial enquiries were made – no more than that. They talked about installing the MUGA within a new housing development – this idea is not supported by the Parish Council. The agent (Carter Jonas) has now stated that there are no plans to proceed with any development on that site.
 - e. The MUGA, wherever situated will not be floodlit.
9. Now another suggestion – no more than that – to place the MUGA just inside and on the left of the entrance to the Cricket Field.
10. The Parish Council wish to obtain views – for and against that proposal.
11. It will probably necessitate the removal and relocation of the groundsman's shed to another area – probably near the old score board site.
12. All over covering would be needed to prevent cricket balls getting in and tennis and footballs getting out onto any adjacent property and the road.
13. Car parking may be possible close to the MUGA itself during times when cricket is played.
14. At the same time the rather ineffective existing netting by adjacent properties would be improved.
15. Suggested site has at least one advantage – it is a sports field! But there are, like any site, any number of disadvantages.
16. A children's play area (swings/roundabout etc) could also be considered.
17. So, we welcome all your views and are happy to take any questions.

Comments from the public:

1. (Former Trustee of the Cricket Club) Why ignore the 99 year deed, which states – the field must only be used for cricket. I bought my house on that basis. Why does the MUGA need to be at this end of the village?
2. Have the Parish Council Approached the Community Association?
3. Where would the cricket shed go?
4. (Person who lives closest) The ground is not big enough.
5. The original idea for the MUGA envisaged very high fencing with locked gate and computerised entry system.
6. Has Pilsgate got any suitable land?
7. Understand School objections but could access from main road be used by children too young for the ‘woods’ play area, which is used by older teenagers.
8. Are we liaising with PCC?
9. Have we got any money already?
10. Why can’t we lobby Burghley for some land?
11. Why not have temporary loan of land but if it is needed for development later, the landowner would provide alternative arrangements.
12. If residents were unified then Burghley might listen.
13. Cricket Club location too dangerous.
14. Are barns in use and could a MUGA fit into an empty barn?
15. Should all local organisations approach Burghley?
16. Would Burghley sell a piece of land?
17. There is already a danger from cricket balls through windows, so the opinions of residents must be heard.
18. Existing noise from Cricket Club and bad language are already at unacceptable levels.
19. If the MUGA were on the School field it could be used by school children during the day and then rest of village, after hours – Governors do not agree, but surely residents should lobby.
20. 11 houses adjoin School field, if school have the MUGA please bear in mind residents.
21. Bottom end of School Field was play ground in the 80s. Children must be Children and play.
22. There is already sometimes a problem with adults using the School field during School hours.
23. (Chairman of Governors) We have discussed these issues. We now have 170 children at School and may need all the land for future expansion.
24. (Ex-Governor of a School) Schools extremely conscious of safety of children, my School locks gates when pupils are at School.
25. Have we considered a MUGA site accessed from B1443, fenced off from School grounds. School will run out of play areas when expanded and so MUGA could be used.
26. Current School grounds used by young people (very noisily) at night.
27. Martin Bloom was thanked for the effort he has put in to finding a suitable site for the MUGA.

Conclusions

1. Residents are not in favour of the Cricket Field being used for siting a MUGA.
2. There are also strong arguments against the use of the School field.
3. The Parish Council should continue to look for a suitable site for a MUGA and a children’s playground and particular should approach Burghley.