

Dear Mick / Members of the Parish Council, '

Further to discussions with Mick Banks, I am writing to provide details of proposals for improvements to the ASJCC ground..

As an aside, you might be interested to hear that despite the disruptions and adaptations through the COVID-19 global pandemic, 2020 has been a successful season for ASJCC. In our 110th season our 1st XI won the Darlington and District A Division Knockout Cup and completed 'the double' by lifting the A Division league title for the first time in c.30 years. Our Midweek XI reached the semi-finals of the Wensleydale Evening League competition, having won it in 2019. An increased number of players making themselves available has meant that it has been much easier to field a regular 2nd XI than in recent seasons. We have three women playing regular league and cup cricket, and a healthy crop of promising youngsters who we hope to develop and retain for the future.

Our proposals aim to maintain what we have, build for the future and benefit both the village and the cricket club.

I have attached two annotated images which outline the proposals.

Some points which are not annotated, but are worth making:

A couple of points which were discussed, but are not annotated on the slide which we need to take forward:

- We recognise the significance and status of the young Ash Tree which is within our proposed improvements. We would like to apply for planning permission to remove the Ash Tree, but suspect that it is unlikely for it to be granted. The threat of Ash Die Back Disease means that it might not survive much longer anyway, but we should respect the policies of the District Council and wishes of the Parish Council and will do our best to sustain the tree. The plans are intentionally future-proofed to make best use of the space after the demise of the tree, whenever that may be.
- We will undertake to dispose of grass cuttings properly by identifying and using a designated dumping area, and periodically removing the waste. If we make the dumping spot accessible, it might be simple enough to ask a local farmer to scoop it up with a digger and find an alternative resting place. We understand that likely to get into environmental bother if we don't do this properly, and also that a pile of grass cuttings adjacent to the pitch is an unsightly mess.
- We have discussed drainage of the pitch, and particularly in the area we would like to incorporate. We think it might be wise to do the above-ground works first, then see how the ground conditions are with a view to subsequent drainage work where and if required. I'm certainly not an expert in drainage, but think we should consult one in due course before doing any work.
- We will be repairing and if necessary renewing the boundary fence around the ground. We recognise that this is overdue, and Mick Banks has identified a number of issues which we will resolve.
- We have also heard from Mick Banks about proposals to plant willow trees, and we support the general view that this end of the village green could and should be a much nicer place to be.

We intend to complete the groundwork this autumn (ASAP), to enable the ground to settle and improvements to be ready for the 2021 season.

I hope that I have given a clear account of our plans, but if not will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Braithwaite

07766 488673