

## **Quintin Hogg Memorial Sportsground, Chiswick Redevelopment**

### **FAQs January 2024**

#### **What is the current status of the project's planning application?**

Planning permission was granted on 7th December 2023. Approval is aligned to some conditions before and during the redevelopment works period, and once the site is fully reopened for use. Key to these conditions is Latymer's long standing commitment to support the local community through usage beyond our students and alumni, with a programme of access opportunities for grassroots sport and the continuation of relationships with long standing site users.

The full application and its approval status can be viewed on Hounslow council's planning website, using the reference P/2023/1844.

#### **How have you involved people on and around the sport ground locality?**

- Before we submitted our planning application we held a public information session for the **local community** in the onsite cricket pavilion where the project team presented both visuals and the plans of the ambition for our redevelopment. This session was communicated by a door to door flyer drop as well as being shared with local community groups including Grove Park, Chiswick Quay, and Ibis Lane residents' committees.
- We are working closely with the **onsite tenants** – Roko, The Little Gym, and Bright Horizons – with regular communications to make sure they are involved with the project timeline and elements that may impact them and their customers, before the work is completed and the improvements realised.
- Our **regular users** are continuing to take part in their sports training and matches whilst having regular conversations with us about when and how their facilities will be improved or added to, based on the programme of works following planning consent being granted. They are also aware of any draft planned interruptions to their sporting fixtures during the redevelopment programme.

#### **Who are the current and future site sports activity users?**

Quintin Hogg Memorial Sports Ground has a long history of sporting use from 1903 to the present day. The current users have changed little over the past years. It continues to be used frequently by Latymer, Richmond Hockey Club, Polytechnic Football Club, Love Tennis and other local schools. Once the redevelopment programme is complete we anticipate welcoming back a cricket club audience as well as extending our community outreach programme that is currently in place at other Latymer facilities.

### **How does the planning application reflect biodiversity considerations and the local site environment?**

- Our planning application submission includes a number of independent reports that consider the environmental aspects of the redevelopment works and the resulting site layout and infrastructure. These include:
  - air quality assessment
  - arboricultural assessment
  - ecology report
  - bat survey
  - a biodiversity report; and
  - soft landscaping plan
- There are a number of poor specimen **trees** being removed under extant permission. These are not part of Latymer's redevelopment application and had already historically received London Borough of Hounslow approval for their removal.
- The environmental improvement work will include the planting of new trees (a higher number and of a better quality than those that are being removed), new diverse native shrubland, varied shrub planting, and seeding of native grasses. We also plan to reintroduce bee hives, ensuring the surrounding habitat thrives.
- The **infill material for the proposed 3G AGP** pitch will not be a rubber crumb. We have chosen ground corn husks from the number of options available in a rapidly evolving technical materials market within this area of pitch installation. This process takes an unused food waste production and regenerates it into a sports surface infill. Whilst the organic alternatives are costlier than rubber materials, the school is committed to using sustainable solutions and supporting the safety of current and future sporting users.
- We want to restore the site's previous flagship reputation by improving the playing surfaces available. Both **new artificial pitches** will replace grass playing surfaces which have not been maintained to an optimum playing standard in recent years.
- We plan to install PV panels on the grandstand roof (after its repair) to support some of the power usage required onsite.

### **How are you prioritising the protection of the history of the site?**

- There are a few very old, significant **trees** onsite that have tree protection orders (TPOs) as well as root protection zones. These trees and surrounding areas have been clearly considered as part of the redevelopment plans and will remain untouched, and be respected both within the planned works and integrated as features into the improved site layout.
- The sports ground and stadium have a long-standing history with the **Polytechnic** and is now home to the Polytechnic Football club, a large active community sports club. There are a number of listed, historic pieces of Polytechnic signage that will be delicately restored during the redevelopment.

**What works have already begun or been completed since Latymer took on the lease in April 2023?**

The sand based artificial pitch has been re-laid, with completion achieved in early September 2023 ahead of the winter hockey season.

We have also installed an improved security system within the cricket pavilion and have begun initial consideration into the wider site security set-up as well as a signage plan to improve the user experience.

**Will the redevelopment make the local roads busier?**

No. Three main factors will limit vehicle numbers: the car park will have an ANPR or similar system installed, Latymer will continue to use coaches through the week for students and staff using the site (limiting the number of vehicles) and the LTN continues to limit access to non-residents through Hartington Road or beyond the junction of Cavendish Road. We are also improving the LTN signage at the exit point to the site to outline more detailed information on this restriction.

**With more facilities installed, will the site be noisier?**

Noise levels from the sports onsite now and the local environment (surrounding streets and aircraft) were analysed and included within the submission of a noise report as part of the planning application. The majority of the sport played in the evening under floodlighting and on all-year on artificial pitches will be played on the eastern side of the sports ground and consequently has limited impact on local residents.

**What is the impact of the floodlighting of the new facilities?**

The lighting to the existing pitches has recently been improved with LED heads, where the lighting is focussed and its spread from the source reduced, resulting in less spill. The lighting for the new astro and 3G AGP will be of a similar specification.