

## Sefton Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Title:** Orrell Mount Park masterplan consultation

**Report of:** Simon Burnett, Head of Communities

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### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To provide the Engagement & Consultation Panel with information relating to the proposed Orrell Mount Park masterplan consultation exercise.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The main purpose of the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is to coordinate and ensure the quality of public engagement and consultation, in accordance with the standards for engagement and consultation.

### **3. Name of Issue you are Consulting On**

3.1 The Sefton Local Football Facility Plan (completed in 2019), Playing Pitch Strategy (2016) and recent analysis of Liverpool County FA's affiliation data have collectively identified the need for 17 full size (11 aside) 3G pitches across the borough.

3.2 At present the borough only has one complete facility and a further two under development.

3.3 To bridge the gap between need and provision the Council is working with various partners and the Football Foundation to identify suitable locations across the borough. Orrell Mount Park in the Netherton & Orrell ward of Bootle has been identified as one such suitable site based upon its size, location, and accessibility.

3.4 The development of 3G pitches requires the Council to identify the resources required to enable construction along with operating model and planning permission.

3.5 At present the Council has an agreed partnership with the Football Foundation, as the key funding partner, and the Jamie Carragher Foundation (JC23 Foundation), as the appointed operating partner. The necessary planning permissions are in place which enabled the Football Foundation grant to be approved and for the site to be developed.

3.6 In order to gain the necessary planning permission, the partners were required to carry out statutory consultation and respond to any issues raised as part of this process to satisfy the planning committee. Subsequently planning

permission was granted in February 21, with a further amendment in July 21, and the partners proceeded with the development.

- 3.7 As work was due to commence on the construction the approved contractors were met with significant resistance from a small number of residents who remained opposed to the development. This included physical barricades and protests at the site which prevented construction commencing, thus presenting a Health & Safety risk.
- 3.8 In light of the localised opposition to the development a decision was taken in November 21 to place the construction on hold to enable further dialogue with residents and key stakeholders to take place. This dialogue will be designed specifically to gain an increased understanding of the localised opposition and to seek wider feedback from the community within a defined catchment area based upon travel time.
- 3.9 Therefore, the purpose of this report is to provide the Engagement and Consultation Panel with information relating to the proposed consultation exercise for the Orrell Mount Park masterplan and to seek feedback.

#### **4. The Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation and engagement will be carried out with the support of external consultants to provide additional capacity, expertise, and impartiality. This will commence 30 May 22 and conclude 22 July 22.
- 4.2 Consultation will include carrying out stakeholder engagement interviews and several drop-in sessions, in addition to the production of frequently asked questions and a consultation questionnaire, that will both be available online and in hard copy.
- 4.3 This will essentially provide recipients with the opportunity to receive information about the proposed scheme to make an informed choice of whether to support the proposed scheme or not, along with the ability to provide further comments and suggestions. Following this an overall consultation an evaluation report will be produced thus enabling the Council to fully understand the levels of support.
- 4.4 Groups to be consulted will include:
  - Local Residents
  - Primary, Secondary Schools & Colleges
  - Sports Clubs
  - Community Groups
  - Youth Groups
  - Friends of Groups
  - Aiming High & Inclusion Groups
  - Ward Councillors
- 4.5 The consultation will include gathering both quantitative and qualitative feedback

to provide the statistical and anecdotal evidence required to enable a complete view to be established. The consultation will seek feedback from recipients on a wider site masterplan for the development of the park on a phased basis.

## **5. Reporting and Publishing the Findings**

- 5.1 The report and subsequent findings will be published end-July following the community consultation process.

## **6. Legal Department Comments**

- 6.1 Sefton's Legal Department has considered the consultation plans contained in this report and has no comments to make.

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is recommended to:

- a) agree to the proposed approach and provide feedback
- b) Request that the officers return to the Panel to provide details of their feedback and evaluation resulting from the above consultation

Sport England position statement on 3G pitches:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/position-statement-on-3g-pitches>

Sefton Local Football Facility Plan:

<https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/sefton/sefton-local-football-facility-plan/>