

Agenda item 5

For information – Badgers Hill Update

Author: Peter Wheelhouse, Economic Development & Regeneration Manager & Deputy Town Clerk

This is the first in a series of monthly updates for Council on the Badgers Hill project.

Repair & improvement project

The target date for completing the repair and improvement project has now moved to the end of December 2024. This is due to delays in securing the draw down of funding from the Community Ownership Fund and Football Foundation.

In response to these delays, it has been necessary to revise plans for the replacement of the changing rooms and first aid facilities to enable the football club to make use of the existing changing rooms during the early part of the forthcoming 2024/25 football season. Following consultation with the club and the FTC Project Team, the Frome Town Community Benefit Society (CBS) have decided that the new facilities will be located alongside the Clubhouse.

Other options were considered including a site close to the main vehicular entrance. But the selected option is considered to be most cost effective as it has the smallest footprint and will tie in with repairs to the Clubhouse. There is a saving on demolition and enabling works. The new changing room/first aid block will also enable easy access to the Clubhouse by players and officials and improve the appearance of the Clubhouse as it will see the removal of the old turnstiles and Elliott building in this location.

A planning application for the new changing/first aid facilities and the new Clubhouse roof has been submitted with determination expected around the end of September. The plans will be shown at the meeting and will be formally considered by our Planning Committee on 8 August.

The tendering process for the works is due to begin in the week beginning 5 August.

Frome Town Community Benefit Society (CBS)

There have been changes at the Board. A key appointment is David Parry who has stepped into the role of Treasurer and Secretary following the earlier departure of Martin Walsh. In addition to his secretarial and financial duties, David has taken on responsibility for managing the repair and improvement project supported by FTC.

The CBS is coming to the end of its first year as lessee of the site. The lease, at [Appendix 5.1 which can be viewed on the website here](#), requires that the CBS starts paying rent and insurance rent in Year 2 which starts on 1 August. Rent of £8,000 + VAT and insurance rent of £2,443 is payable. Licenses between the CBS and the football teams and the gym are also due to be renewed.

To ensure that buildings insurance cover is maintained, surveyors Easton Bevins are reviewing their earlier assessment of health and safety and fire risk, and their report is due shortly. The CBS is also due to present their annual report to FTC which amongst other things will be required to account for their community-based activities and projects. The CBS Chair, Andrew Carpenter has been invited to present to Council – date to be confirmed at the time of writing.