

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
2 December 2014

Subject: **SOWERBY SPORTS VILLAGE**

Sowerby Ward
Portfolio Holder for Customer & Leisure Services: Councillor Mrs B S Fortune

1.0 BACKGROUND:

1.1 Through a long history of negotiations the Council has signed a S106 Agreement in relation to the South West Thirsk housing area which includes:-

- Transport infrastructure;
- On-site children's play;
- On-site public open space;
- Various elements relating to cycling;
- Public art;
- Education; and
- Off-site recreational scheme.

1.2 This report relates purely to the final one of these the off-site recreational scheme and sets out progress with the delivery of this element which covers the transfer of 9.745 acres of land and £1.5 million.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION:

2.1 The Council has established a local stakeholder group which includes the adjacent secondary school, local sports clubs, youth organisations and Sowerby Parish Council.

2.2 There is a shared vision to create a 'sports village' which encompasses existing adjacent facilities as well as the new provision. It would be mainly outdoor facilities with associated changing and social buildings, and would need to be complementary to other existing facilities in the Sowerby & Thirsk area rather than to compete.

2.3 The Council is taking the lead in implementing the scheme using its project management methodology and has appointed design agents to help it to undertake Phase 1 of the project which is effectively a feasibility and planning phase.

2.4 There is a high level of engagement and involvement of local community organisations as it is envisaged that ultimately the site will be managed by a sustainable voluntary organisation.

2.5 The Council has led a process involving the key stakeholders through two rounds of public consultation and as a result has produced a preferred scheme.

2.6 This preferred scheme was submitted as a planning application and approved by Planning Committee held on 13 November 2014.

2.7 To allow the project to proceed there are two pieces of land which need to transfer to the Council. One is from the developer, the other from NYCC; both land transactions are under way and are expected to be complete early in the New Year.

3.0 RESULTS TO DATE:

3.1 A plan has been produced which has been submitted for planning permission; this is shown at Annex A.

3.2 The delivery of the concept plan has been costed at approximately £4m and it is envisaged that the balance of £2.5m funding will come from external grants such as the Sports Lottery, Sport England and the various governing bodies of the sports involved. Firmed up assessments of these will inform an implementation plan which could deliver the concept in phases over several years.

3.3 The production of the concept plans have been informed by local stakeholder consultation, governing body of sport liaison and discussions with both the main developer and Council Planning Officers.

4.0 NEXT STEPS:

4.1 The next steps include:-

- Developing an implementation plan
- Undertaking design work
- Submitting external funding bids
- Establishing a new umbrella body to oversee and manage the operation of the site in future

4.2 There is already a public relations plan for this project which links into the Communications Plan for the South West Thirsk housing project itself.

5.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

5.1 This links to the Council's Health priority as it will increase participation in physical activity amongst young people in particular.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

6.1 There is no significant risk associated with this report.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 There are no financial implications for the Council associated with this report.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 The only legal implications are in relation to the S106 Agreement previously covered.

9.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:

9.1 An equality impact assessment will be undertaken prior to any investment.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- 10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the progress on the Sowerby Sports Village and the next steps be approved.

DAVID GOODWIN

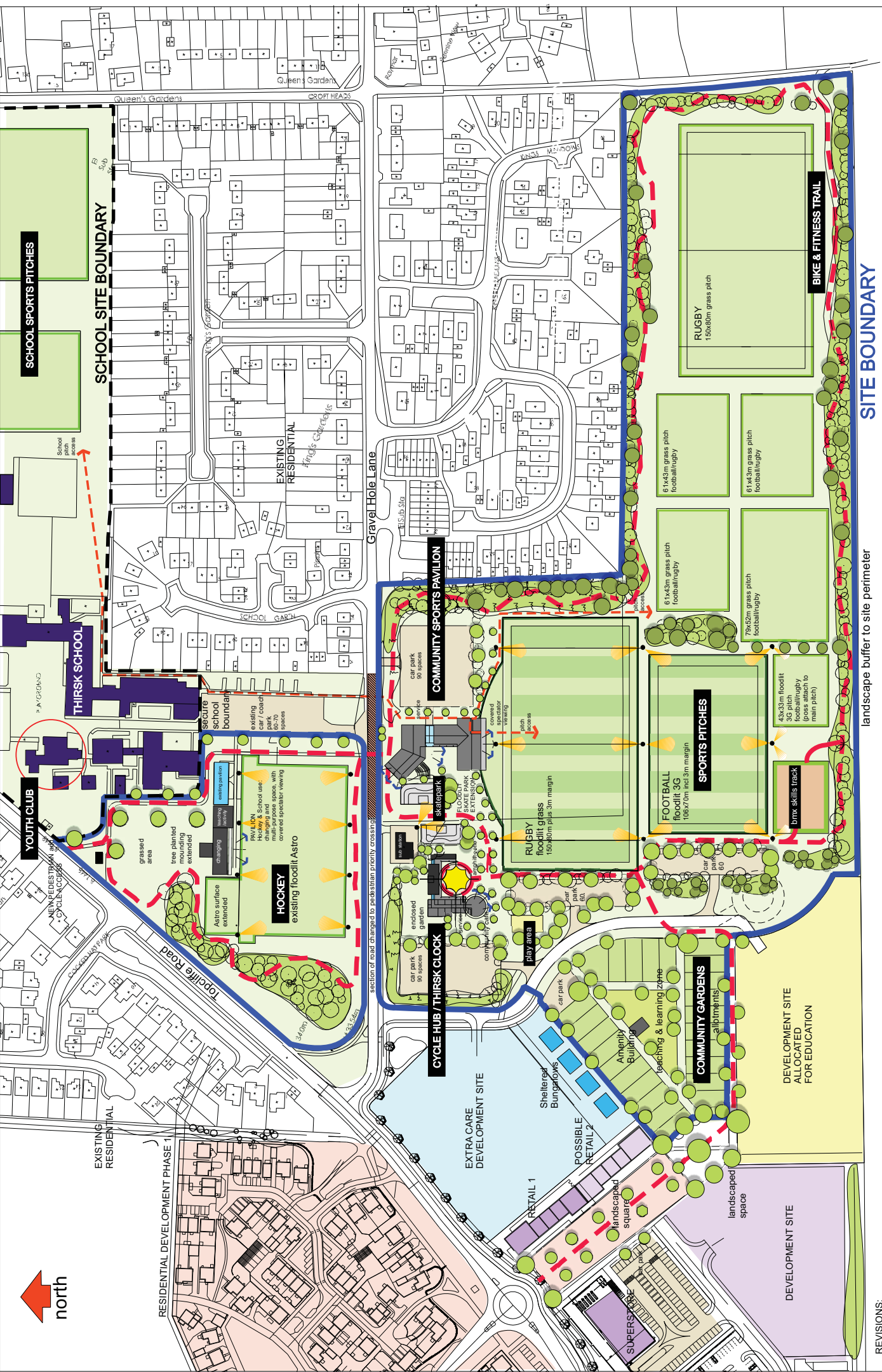
Background papers: None

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021214 Sowerby Sports Village

PROPOSED SITE MASTERPLAN



landscape buffer to site perimeter

REVISIONS:
A. Hockey/school pavilion amended following Stakeholder meeting. MD 15 Oct.2013

