

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

21 SEPTEMBER 2021

PROGRESS REPORT NEWARK & SHERWOOD YMCA COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITY VILLAGE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Members with an update report in respect of building progress at the YMCA Newark & Sherwood Community and Activity Village.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 YMCA commenced Phase 1 work at the above site in May 2018 and completed Phase 1 in October 2018. Phase 2 (Village Community Building) commenced in February 2021 with practical completion in Spring 2022. To keep members apprised of progress regular update reports will be presented to the Leisure & Environment Committee.

3.0 Progress Report

3.1 Phase 1

Phase 1 included the construction of two full size floodlit 3G pitches, a floodlit 6 lane synthetic athletics track and field facility, full perimeter security fencing, temporary changing provision and car parking to facilitate the early operation of the site. The two 3G football pitches and athletics track are fully operational post Covid where the site was closed for long periods during lockdowns.

3.2 Current Utilisation

Through the period of March 2020 to April 2021 the YMCA Village was only open periodically due to the COVID -19 pandemic lockdowns. Since reopening in April 2021, we have experienced a significant increase in usage.

Highlights from Apr 2021 through Sep 2021 include:

- 1921 football pitch bookings
- 51 athletics track bookings
- 41 MUGA bookings
- Peak utilisation (1600-2200) 95%

Facility upgrades, to accommodate Newark Towns FC progression, were completed during lockdown. NTFC are competing in the Premier North Division league and are currently sitting in 4th position. Another partner (RHP Colts) plays in the Lincolnshire Intermediate Football League and are currently sitting in 2nd place. Both teams have seen an increase in participation and consequently a growth in the number of teams.

Daytime use is also increasing chiefly through educational groups. You Can Do Sport, Newark Academy FC, and Orchard school all now have recurring bookings during term time and Grantham College are interested in using us as a base. Nottingham Forest FC continue to deliver their football camps during school holidays and DP football school have recently committed to using us as their base for all training, camps, and tournaments.

YMCA's own programmes are also experiencing growth. Youth football sessions run on a Friday afternoon/evening and are attracting 40+ young people each week. We are looking to increase the number of available sessions and sports to this age group. Similarly, Wildcats, girls' football for 8+ year olds, is attracting up to 30 girls a week. Alongside this we have an early morning running club attracting around 20 people per session and Tai chi is popular with the older age group. An over 55's football session is being planned to further boost daytime use. We are near completion of a successful Syrian family programme, aimed at integrating the Syrian community into Newark. Through the summer we provided sporting sessions (in collaboration with ABL Health and NSDC) for all ages and tracked their progress. The program ended with a group picnic on the athletics field to celebrate their achievements.

3.3 Installation of Multi-Use Games Area

YMCA secured additional funding for the installation of a multi-use games area which provides appropriate surfaces for recreational basketball, tennis and netball. They will eventually become fully flood lit courts as the lighting infrastructure has been provided for but have initially been installed without floodlighting. Charles Lawrence Surfaces installed the courts during lockdown and an opening event occurred on August 18th with a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the facility.

3.4 Cycling

Previous reports cited that British Cycling would not support a tarmac cycle track for the Village facility due to there being 3 other facilities of this nature within comfortable driving distance of Newark. After consultation with cycling groups and in collaboration with British Cycling, the YMCA submitted a revised cycling facility design including a learn to ride track, a bikeability area and a hard packed cycling track suitable for families and young people whilst appealing to mass market cycling. Successful Funding was achieved through British Cycling for 50% of the Cycling Facility Project Costs. The remaining 50% has been applied to from the Tarmac Community Fund and a decision is expected in late September or early October.

3.5 Skate Park

The Skate Park is anticipated to be fully funded and the YMCA Funding Team are working towards securing the necessary finance to make it a reality.

3.6 Five a Side Football Pitches

This facility was identified in the FA Local Football Facilities Development Plan and has been earmarked for development in the near future.

3.7 Phase 2 Community & Activity Village Main Building

Phase 2 (Village Community Building) commenced in February 2021 with practical completion in Spring 2022.

R.G. Carter Construction was selected by the YMCA to build the Village building after a full OJEU Procurement process was completed. The Phase 2 building includes: educational classrooms, music and film studios, dance studio, arts suite, large community cafe and kitchen, function space, conference space, early years nursery provision, before and after school childcare, therapy rooms, clinical spaces, rentable desk spaces, several meeting rooms, physiotherapy rooms, mental health consulting rooms, changing rooms for the entire Village, functional fitness space and an Olympic standard climbing centre.

The remaining cold rolled steel is being installed to the first-floor function roof and lantern. Roofing is progressing through the phases ahead of the wall cladding, which RGC have started. Ground floor concreting works are progressing into the last two phases of the build.

3.8 **Community Investment**

In April 2020 the YMCA, with the support of Triodos Bank, launched a retail/crowdfunding Social Investment Bond to further facilitate the capital required to make the full vision of the Village a reality. The Bond achieved its target of £3m towards the construction of the Village building

3.9 **Community Development Partners**

There has been ongoing work with a range of local education, health and wellbeing partners to build relationships with the Village. Conversations are ongoing and partners have been identified who meet and agree with the YMCA core values and strategic priorities. Partners must also be willing to work collectively both operationally and strategically to support the Village and the community by adopting and working in line with our place-based approach.

3.10 **Education Partners include:**

- Lincoln College Group
- CGL
- Inspire Culture
- REAL Education
- Home Start
- You Can Do Sport/Magnus School
- YMCA Fit

Each of the Education partners have agreed to long term agreements to access classroom space in the building as well as accessing other on-site facility usage for their students.

3.11 **Community Health Partners**

The YMCA is in discussion with several community health partners, football clubs, local charities and other voluntary organisations. We envisage these partners to be sited within the building accessing various spaces or utilising desk rental, treatment rooms, therapy rooms and clinical spaces.

3.12 **Research Partners**

Nottingham Trent University will be researching the impact of the YMCA and the activities of its partners on the wellbeing and social mobility of young people and families signed up to NSCAV activities.

3.13 **Other**

DWP is being spoken to about a Youth Hub being based at the Village. There are also ongoing conversation about the Village becoming an NCC Family Hub

4.0 **Equalities Implications**

4.1 The YMCA is a fully inclusive organisation and will be responsible for ensuring that all operational aspects of project are Equalities Act 2010 compliant.

5.0 **Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications for the Council in relation to this report.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

6.1 The YMCA is a key partner and the delivery of this project will contribute towards the delivery of a number of priorities contained within the Council's Community Plan 2020-2023; particularly the objective to 'improve the health and wellbeing of local residents'.

7.0 Comments of Director(s)

7.1 I welcome the progress made on what will be a transformational and long-term project with far reaching benefits for residents of Newark and Sherwood.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the progress report be noted.

Reason for Recommendation

To provide an update on the progress of the development of the YMCA Community and Activity Village.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Andy Hardy on Ext 5708.

Matthew Finch
Director – Communities & Environment