



## Planning application - Supporting information

July 2023

# Let's bring the FUN back!





## Who we are

Ruislip Rugby Club has a very strong and loyal membership base, often spanning two or more generations of the same family. Players become parents and then often become coaches to their children who become players and the club evolves and moves forward. Our family atmosphere is at the core of our sustainability, and whilst not unique, it marks us out as a very special club in Middlesex.

We field competitive teams across the board from U6 to Veterans. Our senior male section maintains a high standard, with our 1st XV playing at National Level 7, London 2 North West. Our 2nd Team plays in the Middlesex Merit Table competition, and our 3rd XV has turned into a development blend of top-age juniors or “Colts” with an occasional blend of older more experienced payers. The success of this junior to senior pathway arrangement bodes well for the future. We also have had a Vets team in the very successful Middlesex Vets League once again. The new Women's section has proved a huge success, having grown to over 65 women participating and winning the NC3 South East league. We are very proud of our ability to offer rugby for all.

Our older Ruislip Male Youth teams compete strongly at Under 13 to Under 18 age-grade rugby competitions in the Hertfordshire / Middlesex Junior Leagues. The relatively new section for girls provides competitive matches against similar clubs. Our Mini section (Under 6 to Under 12) is very well subscribed and normally has a balanced mixture of training and matches for boys and girls throughout the season.

Ruislip is fortunate to have a large and dedicated coaching team of volunteers, typically enthusiastic and talented parents, many of whom are former players at the Club. Over half of our Club Management Committee are past-players from the Club.

Ruislip Rugby Club exists to provide sporting and social opportunities for children, young people and adults in the Ruislip area of the London Borough of Hillingdon. The Club has around 850 registered members, ranging from 5 to 65 years old, and a large number of social and ex-playing members. Rugby is a game for all shapes and sizes, incomes and abilities, and the Club is proud of its inclusive policy. Equally important is our adherence to the Core Values of rugby football – Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

The Club is a valued part of the local Community and supports other charitable and voluntary organisations from time to time, usually by granting access to our facilities to those who share our values. We enjoy strong links with local schools, youth organisations and the third sector.

The Club is proud to be a recognised as an “Accredited Club” by the Rugby Football Union, our National Governing Body. We also are affiliated to Middlesex County RFU and the London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees, and are a registered CASC.



# Ruislip Rugby Club

## Current clubhouse





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## Our ambition

### One Club

- Further develop ethos to unite & enthuse our membership
- Work together to set common objectives, plan and achieve them
- Increase interaction touch points between different sections

### Community engaged

- Communicate with local councillors and residents to understand local issues, eg provision of nursery care
- Provide a rugby-led safe space to our community
- Showcase benefits of rugby – drugs talks, disability awareness, diversity, equality & inclusion

### Redefine “rugby”

- Work with coaches, players & parents across all sections to better understand why they play rugby and how they benefit from the sport
- Physical & mental wellbeing
- Training, fitness, competition, yoga, sharing, support etc

### Sustainability

- Foundation principle is that we are a rugby club
- Given changes to the game (RFU, Local Council funding etc), key we develop new revenue streams to support club long term
- Hiring out of facilities to club members, or like-minded ventures that benefit our local community



## Facilities development

### Current

- 4 full sized pitches plus training areas
- Solid clubhouse structure from c30 years ago
- 2 regular sized & 4 small changing rooms
- Large open plan communal shower area
- Bar, kitchen & reception hall
- Clubhouse in need of severe TLC, “sticking plaster” approach past 10 years

### Ambition

- 6 large changing rooms, all with ensuite shower cubicles (sufficient segregation for Ladies/Girls teams with separate access)
- Corridors & at least 2 changing rooms to provide disabled access and facilities
- Indoor gym & activity area, physio room
- Improve car parking with electric charge points
- Modern bar, kitchen & reception hall

### Next steps

- Secure planning permission from LBH. Engage & obtain support from membership, local residents, councillors & MPs
- Launch sponsorship campaign to raise funds. Expected costs (build & fit out) are c£600k, of which we have £200k in own funds.