

In 2010, land off West Road was purchased from Hopes Auction Company by Allerdale Borough Council on behalf of Wigton Town Council.

The intention at the time was to use the land as additional sports pitches. A restrictive covenant is in place which prohibits any buildings to be placed on the land.

In 2012 a bridge was donated to the Town Council, and the intention was to link Barton Laws to planned new pitches across the River Wiza

In February 2013 the Clerk was asked to contact Innovia to obtain relevant drawings to assist in any planning application. The subsequent plans provided were inadequate for planning purposes, and further plans were commissioned by the Town Council.

In 2014, plans were submitted to Allerdale Planning Authority. The Environment Agency raised flood risk concerns. In addition, the height of the bridge would mean the ramps would take up a lot of the car park, and also traverse the public footpath, which would need addressed at some expense.

In October 2014 the Playing Field Strategy was published for the whole of Allerdale. This report states there is no demand for additional playing fields in the town. Following our ongoing discussions with the FA, from their perspective, the situation remains the same. The Environment Agency also indicated that they would object to any raising of the land where the pitches would be. As a result it would prove difficult to find partner funders to develop the land.

In Early 2016, at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the planning application was withdrawn to enable efforts to be concentrated on the Pavilion and Pitch Improvements.

Options

1. **Do Nothing** – Leaving the bridge in situ does take up some space and doing nothing will result in the bridge deteriorating further. Councillors should note that we have had a few comments about it being an eyesore.
2. **Progress the installation** – It will be difficult at this time, and for the foreseeable future, to make a business case for the installation of the bridge due to the lack of demand of additional pitches, and to overcome the Environment Agencies concerns. If installed the ramps will take up a significant amount of the car parking space. Plan attached.
3. **Sell it** – The council have been asked if it can be sold for a donation. As a comparison, we have obtained an estimate for its Scrap Value which is £100 per tonne (which would include dismantling and removing it from site). Its estimated weight is 6 tonne.