

Northern Fells Putting Area Proposal

Community Project

Putting Area working Group

The Proposal

To create a 18 hole Cumbrian rough ground putting area, staffed by volunteers, initially for weekends, but if it becomes popular and more volunteers become available, days can be added. Operational between July and September.

Set up and ongoing costs will be covered through business Sponsorship. Sponsorship has already been sourced.

Why is it being proposed?

One of the overriding reasons is to get community involvement in its creation and on-going usage in the wake of Covid-19.

Best estimates put a limited form of normality to late spring early summer, therefore this would come on stream just at the right time to allow public usage.

It would also allow the Town Council to engage directly with the Wigton community in a positive way that also has health benefits.

It also compliments the new Barton Laws Development and could give extra community usage to the new facility.

When the land was first purchased by previous Wigton Town Councillors, it was with leisure in mind, therefore by creating this pop-up Putting area on a small part, we are carrying forward their original thinking and providing impetus to create other usages such as walking trails, tree planting, etc, on the field.

Where would it be located?

On the Council Land between Barton Laws and the Path that leads to Phoenix Park from West Road (as per drawing provided by Mr Graham).

It is proposed to access the land off the path and locate a small Kiosk at the entrance, then feed up to a area at the Plato of the highest part of the field.

The putting ground would be created over one area and would cover approximately 15- 20% of the field. This would allow for hole rotation to minimize course deterioration through usage.

The course uses the bumps and the flow of the land rather than a conventional style of a flat putting green.

Field Investigations

The working group agreed it would be a good idea to have investigations, to that end a access has been created at the highest part of the path (the lower gate is waterlogged), this was done with a view to allow WTC's tractor and heavy roller onto the area.

Unfortunately we have not been able to carry out this action because the sheep are still in the field and we were unsure whether they were lambing.

However we have been able to carry out a small scale test.

Please see the video of test area on the field.

https://youtu.be/5m4_YLi2QQY

How would it be made?

Volunteers are available to help mark out and create the area and there is also a great deal of expertise within our Town Council employees to give advice on the creation of a suitable surface.

Grass cut by Town Council, with help from volunteers if needed.

Slightly longer grass than a conventional Putting green would help the recovery of the surface from usage and would help minimise the amount of times needed to cut the grass.

What will be needed?

Putting equipment, putting green furniture, small Kiosk, public liability insurance.
No Planning application is needed for change of use on field. (Confirmed by Simon Sharp at Allerdale)
Short term fence to take livestock off the area being prepared if needed?
New entry point.
Picnic benches if required
Grass cutting equipment (WTC).

How would it be run?

The main labour intensive part would be in handing out equipment & tickets, it is proposed to seek volunteers to help with this aspect.
Some have already expressed an interest in volunteering to help do this, the Ideal figure for the weekend would be 8 to 12 people.
Cutting grass would be required, it is expected that this would need to be once per week depending on grass growth, this is after the area has been created.
We would recommend if the proposal goes ahead that equipment be taken out of the Kiosk during the evening and stored off site (New Development or elsewhere)?

DBS Checks

We have done extensive research into this and are following government advice.

The GOV.UK website says that it is not a requirement to have checks on Volunteers (please see Reference sheets in Appendix), but it would be important to create a Volunteers information reference sheet For WTC records, this would outline specific questions.

Extract from “**Safeguarding Factsheet: Community volunteers during COVID-19 outbreak**”

“Community Groups should ask their volunteers if they have been barred. If they have been barred, then you should not allow them to work closely with children or vulnerable adults. For further information see DBS guidance on barring”.

NOTE: It is not proposed to provide Putting lessons or Tuition to the general public.

Car Parking

It is proposed that the Barton Laws car park be the designated parking area. **Income and Setup funds.**
Soundings have been made with regards to sponsors.

One company has said it would be the main Sponsor, providing funds and all the Putters we would need.
Over 19 local companies have said they would be prepared to sponsor the putting area (£50 plus each).
Private Sponsors have also come forward.

A small fee could be charged for usage, alternatively we could have free access and ask for donations.
Councillor Alan Pitcher mentioned at the March meeting that ABC were looking to help with costs in setting up Community activities in Allerdale in the wake of Covid-19, this might be helpful with this project and the wider usages on the field.

Advertising of the Facility.

Social media would play a big part Facebook, YouTube, etc.

Town Council website, Local media outlets, also, a National Organisation “Blesma” has said they would help showcase it with their members (online and Magazine). They have also said they would like to hold a Members open day on the area.

Disabled access.

One of the important aspects of the concept is to make the putting area as inclusive as possible, easy removal of Golf balls using flange plates on the Hole markers to lift them out.

If WTC decide to go ahead with the pop-up concept, It would be important to involve other organisations to give specific advice, (Chrysalis, Blesma, etc.).

Recommendation

The Working Group recommend that we move the concept onto the next stage and start to

prepare the Access and Putting area also begin to publicize and develop the Community/Volunteer aspect.

Detailed Start-up & Running Costs

- 1/ New Gates into Field + Gate posts and fittings (already prepared for Tractor access) 4' x 3' 2off
- 2/ Kiosk 6' W x 8' L x 6' H (£300).
- 3/ Two benches opposite Shed (Use some of the park / bowling green's?).
- 4/ Picnic benches for middle area (£100 each, total needed?).
- 5/ Outer fence to isolate field for stock control (if needed), 250M c81815, f 20,..Galv staples, 120 5'6" 3"- 4" posts. (£436.55 Fencing & Fence post's Labour free through volunteers).
- 6/ Rubbish Bin (WTC/Allerdale?)
- 7/ Signage and information (Thought needed as too the best type of sign/signs to make?, these would need to be and bespoke made in-house).

Golf Equipment and Ticketing

- 8/ Putters (Donated through O'Reilly's (Penrith).
- 9/ Golf Balls (WTC and donated by the public).
- 10/ Flag poles & Cups 18 off (A private donation by a member of the public.)
- 11/ Cup plugs for night time (Homemade wooden plugs).
- 12/ Hole cutter for cups (To buy £121.20).
- 13/ Hole number/directional Start points (Homemade, a design needed?)
- 14/ Tickets, score cards, pencils (£75.86)

- 15/ Money management system (Till/box £10.42)
- 16/ Trolley to remove all equipment from Kiosk (£187.02 Inc. VAT)

Staff Costs (Volunteer model)

- 18/ Custom personalised High viability vests (Wigton Town council Logo £38.40).
- 19/ Walkie Talkie or mobile phone communication? (Safety feature?)
- 20/ Insurances (WTC)
- 21/ Grass cutting (New Bowling green mower along with the old 7 blade cutting cartridge module, 12mm depth of grass.
£96 per Week based upon one cut per week, 4 hours @ £24.00 per hour,
10 weeks = £960.0022/ Publicity (Facebook & YouTube pages, Local Papers. This will help reduce costs).
- 23/ Risk Assessment including Covid-19 Assessment (It is proposed to carry out the risk assessment in-house, this would be a live and ongoing document, it would need to be reviewed throughout).

Pricing References

1 - 9 Numbered Complete Set Of Golf Practice Putting Green Flags | eBay X 2

Mercia 8 x 6ft Overlap Apex Garden Shed | Wilko

864 (6 BOXES) HALF SIZE HEXAGONAL WOODEN GOLF PENCILS. HB. 144 PER BOX. FOR GOLF, BOOKIES, and SCHOOLS ETC: Amazon.co.uk: Office Products£22.75 free delivery

Standard Scorecards (Pack of 1,000) – Event Stuff Ltd Owns Putterfingers.com!
Score Cards £42.60 Inc. delivery

Roll Ticket Admission Assorted 50022 ITAD - 134-4439 (caboodle.co.uk)
2 x 1000 Rolls £ 10.51

Q-Connect Cash Box 8 Inch Blue Ref KF02623 - KF02623 - 5705831026230 - Eurooffice Ltd £ 10.42
Mesh Truck with Drop Down Sides | Trucks and Trolleys | Manutan UK
£187.02 Inc. VAT free shipping.

Marketplace – Picnic benches free delivery? | Facebook
CUSTOM HI VIS VEST PERSONALISED PRINTED HI VIZ HIGH VIS SAFETY VEST WAISTCOAT | eBay

Laversdale Timber Carlisle & Wigton

Screw Action Hole cutter | Hole Cups | Hole cutters | Accessories (fairwayproductsonline.co.uk)

Reference information

Safeguarding Factsheet: Community volunteers during COVID-19 outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Safeguarding and DBS Factsheet: FAQs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)