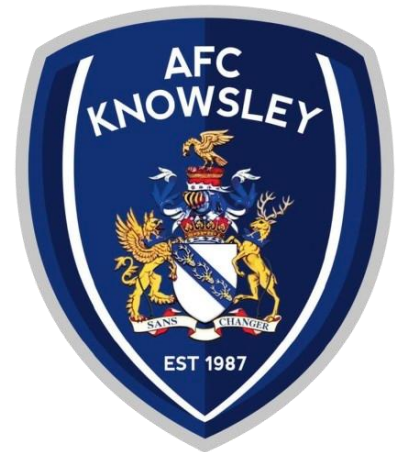


DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

PROPOSED PUBLIC STANDS, TICKET KIOSK, DUGOUTS, FENCING IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS

AFC KNOWSLEY
LORD DERBY PAVILION
KNOWSLEY LANE
L36 8JB



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Design and Access Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the provision of spectator and matchday infrastructure at AFC Knowsley, Lord Derby Pavilion, Knowsley Lane, L36 8JB.

1.2 The proposed development comprises:

- A new 50-seat covered spectator stand;
- A new 50-person standing shelter;
- Two new 8-person team dugouts;
- A ticket kiosk;
- New and improved perimeter fencing;
- Associated hardstanding and spectator circulation routes; and
- Associated floodlighting infrastructure as shown on the submitted plans.

1.3 The purpose of the development is to improve the existing football facilities and enable AFC Knowsley to meet the ground grading requirements associated with progression within the Football Association National League System.

2.0 SITE AND CONTEXT APPRAISAL

2.1 AFC Knowsley operates from Lord Derby Pavilion and is an established community football club serving Knowsley and the wider Merseyside area. The club was founded in 1987 and has developed significantly over recent years following investment in modern changing facilities, a clubhouse, café and community facilities.

2.2 The club currently supports numerous junior, youth, girls', disability and adult teams and provides sporting opportunities for over 600 registered players.

2.3 The application site forms part of an established sporting and recreational complex. The proposed development will be located within the existing football ground and immediately adjacent to the main pitch.

2.4 The site already functions as a sporting venue and the proposals represent a logical enhancement of the existing use. The development does not introduce a new land use but instead improves existing facilities required for spectators, players and officials.

2.5 The surrounding context is characterised by existing sports pitches, associated sports infrastructure and open recreational land. The proposed structures have therefore been designed to reflect the functional sporting character of the site.

3.0 DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS

3.1 The principal design objective has been to provide the facilities necessary to support the continued development of AFC Knowsley whilst ensuring that the proposals integrate appropriately with the existing sports ground.

3.2 The design has been guided by the following principles:

- Provision of safe and functional spectator accommodation;
- Compliance with Football Association and league requirements;
- Retention of the open sporting character of the site;
- Minimal visual impact through simple and functional design;
- Safe movement of players, spectators and officials; and
- Accessibility and inclusivity for all users.

3.3 The proposals adopt a simple, utilitarian architectural approach consistent with sports facilities of this nature. The structures are modest in scale and designed primarily for their operational function.

4.0 SCALE, LAYOUT AND APPEARANCE

4.1 The layout has been carefully designed to work within the existing football ground and to ensure efficient circulation around the pitch.

4.2 The covered seated stand provides accommodation for approximately 50 spectators and is positioned to maximise viewing opportunities whilst remaining proportionate to the scale of the site.

4.3 The standing shelter provides additional weather protection for spectators and is located to complement the seated accommodation.

4.4 The proposed dugouts are positioned adjacent to the pitch in accordance with football governing body requirements and provide appropriate facilities for players and coaching staff.

4.5 The ticket kiosk is a modest structure located to facilitate matchday operations and visitor management.

4.6 The proposed fencing improvements provide enhanced security, crowd management and spectator safety whilst maintaining visibility throughout the site.

4.7 Materials have been selected for durability and suitability within a sporting environment, including powder-coated steel structures, mesh fencing systems and robust spectator facilities requiring minimal maintenance.

4.8 The development is considered to be entirely appropriate within the context of an established sports facility and will not appear visually intrusive or out of character with the surrounding area.

5.0 ACCESS

5.1 Access arrangements will continue to utilise the existing established access points serving Lord Derby Pavilion.

5.2 No alterations are proposed to the existing vehicular access arrangements.

5.3 Existing parking facilities associated with the sports complex will continue to serve the development.

5.4 The proposals have been designed to improve spectator circulation through the provision of dedicated hardstanding and clearly defined spectator areas.

5.5 Pedestrian routes around the site will remain clear and legible, enabling safe movement between parking areas, the clubhouse and spectator facilities.

5.6 The proposed facilities are located within an existing sporting venue that is accessible by public transport and local pedestrian networks.

6.0 INCLUSIVE ACCESS

6.1 The design has sought to ensure that facilities can be accessed by all users regardless of age or mobility.

6.2 Level access will continue to be available through the existing site entrance and circulation routes.

6.3 The proposed hardstanding areas will improve accessibility for wheelchair users, people with mobility impairments, parents with pushchairs and older spectators.

6.4 Spectator facilities have been positioned to allow inclusive access and convenient movement around the site.

6.5 Existing accessible facilities within the pavilion building, including accessible sanitary accommodation, remain available for users of the development.

7.0 POLICY T10 CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The proposal has taken account of the objectives of saved Policy T10 relating to accessibility, movement and inclusive access.

7.2 The development utilises existing transport infrastructure and does not prejudice pedestrian, vehicular or emergency access arrangements.

7.3 The proposal supports sustainable community recreation by enhancing an existing sports facility that is accessible to local residents and visitors.

7.4 The design promotes safe movement throughout the site and provides improved facilities for players, officials and spectators.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 Discussions have taken place with football governing bodies and relevant stakeholders regarding the requirements necessary for progression within the football pyramid system.

8.2 The design has evolved to meet operational, safety and accessibility requirements associated with Step 6 football.

8.3 The proposals respond directly to the requirements of the Football Association and league ground grading criteria whilst remaining proportionate to the scale of the existing facility.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 The proposed development represents a sensitive and appropriate enhancement of an established community sports facility.

9.2 The design responds positively to the site's sporting character and provides the infrastructure required to support the continued growth of AFC Knowsley.

9.3 The proposals have been developed with careful consideration of design quality, accessibility, site context and operational requirements.

9.4 The development will deliver significant community, sporting and social benefits whilst maintaining the established character and function of the site.

9.5 It is therefore considered that the proposal represents sustainable development and planning permission is respectfully requested.