



Sports Hall FAQs **Updated 23/2/19**

The following are the Frequently Asked Questions that we have received or been made aware of via social media/e mails. This is a live document that we plan to continue updating so that all parties can see the responses.

Consultation

1. What consultation has the school carried out?

The school has consulted with ELDC/Magna Vitae/Louth Town Council and the Louth Football, Hockey, and Cricket clubs to validate and confirm the level of community need following the closure of the sports facilities at the MDTC and Cordeaux sites to the public.

In addition further consultation around demographics and the growth in pupil numbers was also carried out with LCC.

Once the school established the need for the community side of the facilities we:

- i) Built a dedicated webpage for the Sports Hall to place our plans on.
- ii) Publicised this to the local community via Louth Leader; Grimsby Telegraph; e mail and text messages to our own parental community; carried out a leaflet drop to our immediate neighbours along Horncastle Road and Crowtree Lane.
- iii) Presented our plans to the Town Council to alert local representatives.
- iv) These communications also alerted people to the school's presentation evening held on 23rd November.
- v) Subsequent site visits were arranged for local residents, Foundation Governors and members of the Town Council to view the different site options.
- vi) The school has continued discussions with the local residents committee, and local clubs and has also broadened this discussion to Sport England and the Football Association.
- vii) The school has also taken the step of joining Move Louth Forward and Louth Pictures Old and New Facebook Pages.

2. What changes have you made due to this consultation?

We have made the following changes to our original plans:

- i) Decided not to pursue a "Meriden 2" community and open access facility and instead decided to focus on linking into community sports clubs to provide letting to these groups and build on our educational commitment to young people.
- ii) Agreed to the planting of additional evergreen trees/screening to the back of the building to soften the view from the Horncastle road all year around.
- iii) Agreed to allow the hedges to continue to grow in height in line with the above.



- iv) Cedar clad the back of the building to soften the impact in the landscape
- v) Adoption of a grey rather than white cover for the Sports Hall to reduce solar glare and impact in the landscape.
- vi) Agreed not to introduce floodlighting and to ensure all other exterior lighting is at pedestrian level and soft led lights.
- vii) Removed the provision for community users to access the Sports Hall from the footpath.

Design Questions

1. Why have you chosen a modern design?

The school's preference would be for a high quality, bespoke design utilising glass however the school is bound by the terms of the Academies Finance Handbook and DfE Condition Improvement Fund Terms. These procedures require schools to ensure value for money for the tax payer is central to any development. The added costs associated with a bespoke design would make the project unaffordable and would not be funded by the DfE.

Yes. These tensile structure sports hall are used across the country and the county for Sports Hall construction in schools. They are approved by the DfE and also by Sport England as a sustainable value for money build.

The central requirement of the build is to balance design consideration, against value for money against usable curriculum space for our students and maximum chances of getting funding from the DfE for the project. We believe our choice of design meets these requirements.

2. Did you consider a traditional brick and block slate roof design?

Yes we did consider a traditional brick and block, slate roofed Sport's Hall but the higher material costs and longer build programme increased the overall costs and once again impacted negatively on value for money requirements for the tax payer.

Costs and value for money aside from a design perspective we are not convinced that a 12-14 metre high brick wall running up the hedge line would be a more attractive proposition than the modern design we have identified.

3. How high will the building be?

The building is in two sections – the changing rooms and the domed Sports Hall.

The changing rooms are located at the back of the building on the Horncastle road boundary and are approximately 6m high in a traditional block build and clad with cedar. It is this that will be viewable from the road and over the hedge. The changing rooms are approximately 10 metres wide.

The domed Sports Hall structure is approximately 10.5 metres at the peak of the dome section. For reference the trees are approximately 20metres high



and the weather vane on the existing pavilion stands at approximately 10 meters at the top.

4. How far will the building be from the hedging?

The building will be sited at least 12metres from the hedge line – we are content to be directed to move this but are restricted by the athletics track and sports pitch in front of it.

5. How far will the dome be from the hedge?

The dome will be located in front of the changing rooms and will therefore be at least 20 meters from the hedge line.

6. Will the building be dug into the landscape and if so how far?

To level the site effectively there will be an element of dropping the level of the field in order to create a level site: the incline on the Horncastle Road demonstrates the scale of the problem but the field also slopes down to the Crowtree Lane road as well. We anticipate this digging down will ensure that the top of the dome will not be above the height of the existing pavilion.

There are no specific plans to dig down beyond that required to create a level site; for example, there are no plans to dig down by two or three metres for example or to dig further than this and drop the build below ground level.

7. What colour will the cover on the dome be?

The cover will be light grey rather than white.

8. What lighting arrangements will be in place for the Sports Hall?

The lighting plans for the new Sports Hall are minimal and as follows:

- i) No plans for windows or lights on the back [Horncastle Road] of the Sports Hall to ensure that there is no light spill.
- ii) There are no plans for floodlit pitches on the main field.
- iii) Any pedestrian lighting will be at a low level and be discrete soft LED lighting focused downwards to light the pathway.
- iv) There are no plans for higher level street lighting.
- v) The dome is made of a PVC tensile structure and the fabric has a 10% light transmission into or out of the building. External light transmission is controlled via internal downward facing LED lighting thus down lighting the interior and reducing any outward light spill.

Community/Emergency Access

9. Will the space be available for Community Use/the public?

The school has no plans or desire to run a second Meriden Leisure Centre.



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Our focus is on education and working with the local clubs to help young people from 7-18 have access to winter training and elite performance facilities. Our community use will thus have an educational focus and be tied into lettings for these clubs rather than open public access. By doing this we will help relieve the current pressure on the Meriden's facilities thus creating more opportunities for public use at the Meriden.

To support the above we are also planning to work with Lincoln and Loughborough University to help develop our Elite Performance programme for Louth teams and this will include various Summer and Easter sports camps during the school holidays.

10. Does the school currently let out the existing activity hall?

Yes the current activity hall and Newton Hall [the new build] is let out for community use on a regular basis: we have different community groups who use the space and increased demand from other community groups for use of the space following the closure of the two sports halls at Louth Academy.

In addition to the above we have around 40+ school evening/night/weekend events that utilise the Newton block or our activity hall that run throughout the course of our 38 week academic year.

11. What will be the timings and impact of additional traffic?

The community club use will occur during the early evening from 6pm-9pm and involve indoor winter training sessions from October through to February.

Parking and access will be via the school's main car parks off Crowtree Lane.

Any additional evening traffic will be outside of the school day and therefore not clash with buses or peak 4pm traffic.

12. What about increased fixtures and competitions at the school?

We do not anticipate that the new Sports Hall will increase the number of visiting schools from its current level. The school has seen fixtures decrease over the past three years as many schools have either stopped or significantly reduced extra-curricular sport.

King Edward's mainly plays in regional and national tournaments which requires us to travel to these fixtures.

13. Where will access and parking be for community use?

We currently use the main car parks located off Crowtree Lane for all school events and community lettings: we have no plans to change this.

There are no plans to build any car parks or create vehicle or pedestrian access from the Horncastle Road, and our plans assume the continued use of the main car parks and access via Crowtree Lane and the existing footpath entrances located at the bottom and midway up the footpath.



14. How will emergency vehicles access the site?

The schools existing fire plans and emergency vehicle access route is via the Crowtree lane entrance and there are no plans to alter this or to put in a separate emergency access route off the Horncastle Road.

The existing field does already have a pathway running alongside the edges of the main buildings and there is a hard-core base remaining from when the Pavilion was original built. We plan to extend the path and re-commission this hard-core base to enable emergency vehicles to drive up the side of the field to access the Sports Hall.

15. Will there be any other new access routes?

No the school has no plans to put any other access routes pedestrian or vehicle onto the site as this would create additional security problems for us to manage.

Location

16. What other locations were considered?

The school has considered several other locations as detailed in the table below and shown in the presentation on the website.

Crowtree House [old nursing home on Crowtree Lane]

This site is currently planned for conversion to Sixth Form boarding provision, or other Post 16 education provision depending on DfE Funding.

Conversion of existing activity hall.

Existing footprint is too small and activity hall is ring-fenced for conversion into Physics & Engineering block and a whole school assembly/exams hall.

Top Field/Back of Foundation House

Access is one of the key issues from the Horncastle Road if we built on the top tennis courts and has similar issues at the back of Foundation House which has no road way or access route onto the field without the compulsory purchase and demolition of one of the private residences next to the school to create a roadway to the facility.

Main Field

Various permutations have been considered for the main field but with the exception of the top of the field all of them impact on Sport England's



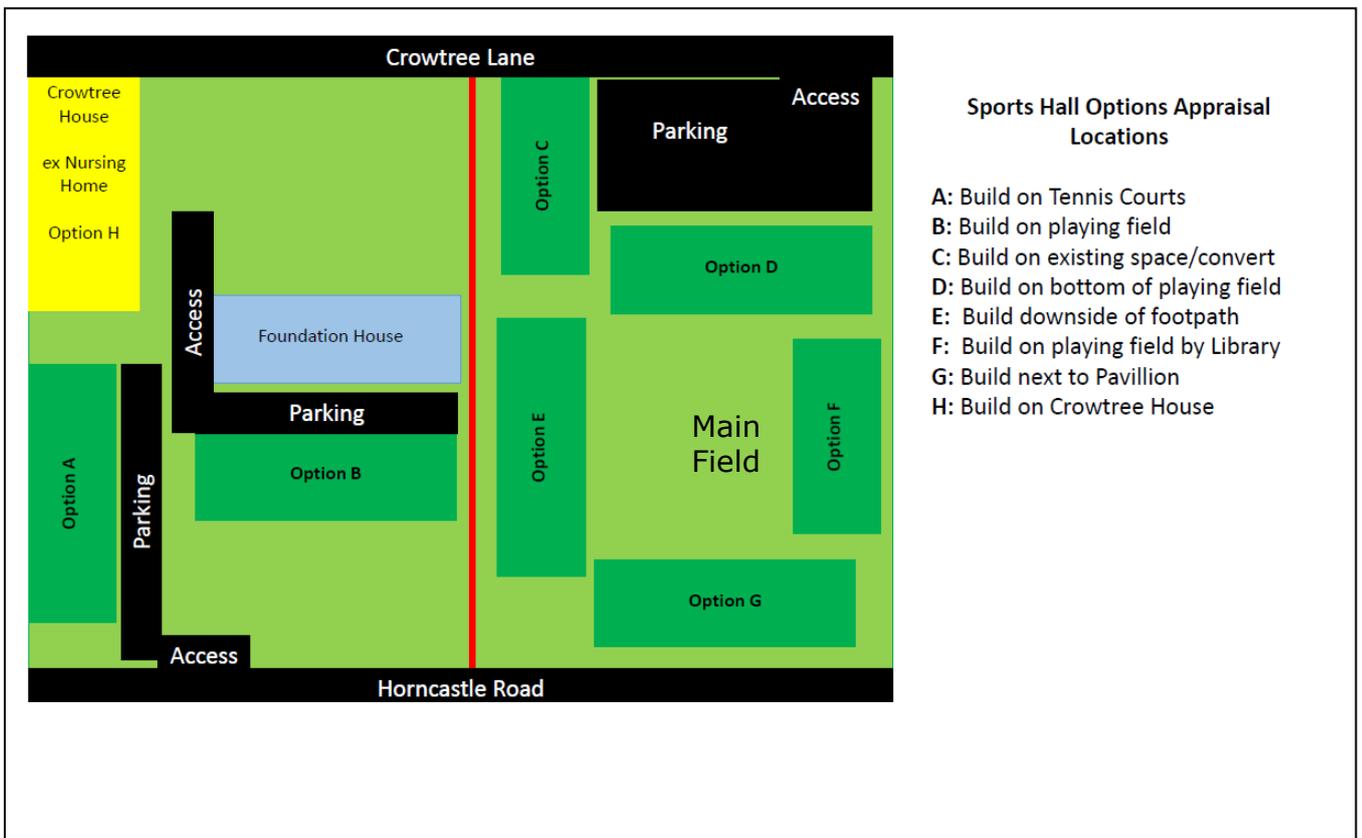
requirement and our curriculum needs to maintain a full size pitch on the main field.

17. Couldn't the school have built the Sports Hall on the old playing fields?

As part of the schools longer term plan to consolidate its investments onto the main site the school took the decision to sell the old Boarding House and the old Julian Bower playing fields as part of its Phase 1 Strategic Site plan to release capital funds to provide investment into our Phase 2 Strategic Site Plan and invest in new sporting facilities [the Sports Hall] and new science and engineering facilities.

Both the Boarding House and Julian Bower playing fields had been dormant for well over a decade [two in Julian Bower's case] and did not form part of the school's normal curriculum usage.

See Options Table Below



Footpath is shown Red

Main Field with Cricket Pavilion

Foundation House = previously Louth Hospital

Crowtree House = the old nursing home [ring fenced for Post 16 education]



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Option	Location	Key Issues
A	Build on Tennis Courts	Sports England objection to the removal of sports facilities & part of top field for car parking. Planning/Highways objections on grounds of access for emergency vehicles and road widening required from Horncastle Road - impact of additional traffic to this area and impact on residents.
B	Build on top playing field behind Foundation House	As above plus significant issues around access routes up the side of Foundation House from Crowtree Lane would require purchase and demolition of one of the bungalows and/or closure of the Footpath and would have an impact on residents and footpath users.
C	Build on existing space/convert	Footprint too small.
D	Build on bottom of playing field	Sport England objections to the removal of a significant percentage of a useable playing space/football pitch over the disused land at the top of the field.
E	Build downside of footpath	Impact of Option D&F on the setting creating overcrowding and light issues for Library, Mathematics and Science blocks.
F	Build on playing field by Library	Option E impacts directly on the Conservation Area requirement for the protection of views of open green spaces and views of St James' Church as this would obscure the view of the Lodge; St James' Church; Louth townscape and set the Sports Hall as the primary building in the landscape.



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G	Build next to Pavilion	<p>Option G – impacts on views for residents in the elevated houses overlooking the school field during the during December to March when trees are bare: April to November the foliage screens the fields and views completely.</p> <p>Sport England exemption for use of existing disused playing area and the retention of the main pitch.</p> <p>Additional cost of extension of existing access route/driveway for emergency vehicles along the side of the main pitch.</p>
H	Build on Crowtree House	<p>Ring Fenced for Post 16 education provision and part of the schools strategic plan to expand Sixth Form provision following the closure of the Sixth Forms at MDTC and Cordeaux.</p>



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