

## **Artificial 3G Grass Pitch Proposal by ECRC**

In addition to the £18,000 grant obtained from Virador, as previously announced for cricket training nets, Edgworth Cricket & Recreation Club have also secured funding, thanks to John and Sally Roberts, of £200,000 from the AO Smile Foundation to provide an artificial grass pitch on the site. This pitch would be '3G' and be predominantly used for football, but also could possibly be used for rounders, netball and bowling. Please note that this surface is not suitable for the playing of tennis and funding is only available for a 3G grass pitch. The funders who have significant experience of similar projects, consider earlier technology that claims to be suitable for many other sports to be an inadequate surface. The funding would cover the entire cost of the project with no financial input from The Barlow charity currently or in the future.

The proposal, as it stands, is to place an artificial grassed area, with fencing and floodlights, approximately 52m x 30m that would be positioned on the current site of the tennis courts and part of the existing grassed mini football pitch to the east of the area occupied by the courts. This would sit alongside the new cricket nets.

The tennis courts are in a poor state of repair and are rarely used. Money would need to be invested to get the courts fit for purpose and to maintain them. With the financial challenges facing them, the Barlow Charity is unable to do this at present. Applications for funding from the Lawn Tennis Association have to be for a minimum of three tennis courts. There are already several well established tennis clubs within the area (Hawkshaw, Bradshaw and Eagley) within 2-4 miles so demand for another club would be limited.

It is envisaged the new area would be used on weekdays as follows:

9am – 4pm – available for local schools, Summer Sports Camps etc

4pm – 5.30pm – Available for 'free play' where local residents can turn up with their friends and families and can use the facility free of charge.

5.30pm -7.30pm – Turton Tigers Junior FC

7.30pm – 10.00pm – Turton FC or Private Hire

On weekends, the area would be used by Turton Tigers from 9am – noon. The facility would not be hired out whilst cricket is taking place on a Saturday or Sunday due to parking availability.

A lease would be required for ECRC from the Barlow Charity as the proposed pitch will be on charitable land. ECRC would operate the facility, generating a source of income for themselves and the Barlow Charity. Hire charges, heavily subsidised for local groups, would

ensure that the facility is maintained in first class condition for the long term and in our view would allow the Charity to continue to meet its charitable objectives regarding sport and recreational activity, to a wider section of the local community.

The proposal has unanimous backing from members of the ECRC Committee together with Turton Tigers Junior FC, Turton FC Edgworth Primary School. There is an opportunity for local residents to comment on the proposal by emailing [consultation@thebarlow.co.uk](mailto:consultation@thebarlow.co.uk) or by visiting the Barlow Main Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 between 10am and 1pm where the plans can be viewed and questions can be put to ECRC representatives in person.

**Dave Enright**

**Chair ECRC**

**15.02.19**