



Department of Education – Shared Education Facility Expression of Interest Information



A sports, community and schools partnership
for Lower North Belfast at Loughside Recreation Centre

31st January 2014

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSED SPORTS PARTNERSHIP BID

The Department of Education Minister John O'Dowd made a significant announcement on Friday the 10th January, inviting expressions of interest for Shared Educational Campuses (see link www.deni.gov.uk/shared_education_campuses_programme_protocol-2.pdf). These educational campuses make up one element of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's Together Building a United Community Strategy.

The aim of the programme is that schools enhance shared education (curriculum time) and shared facilities. This can include shared school campuses or shared facilities. The DE 'Call' is aimed at up to 10 projects. Discussions with sources close to the Minister indicate that there are 4-5 projects (such as in Armagh or at the North Coast) at an early to medium state of readiness. After further market scanning it would appear there are no large applications going forward in the Belfast area for this programme. Seaview Enterprises In short, the 'call' is an open one, and there may be a few 'done deals' but the process appears to be a genuine and open one.

The Proposal: the idea proposed by Crusaders FC and Newington YC (through Seaview Enterprises) is that Belfast City Council's land at Loughside Recreation Centre could be the site of a joint Clubs, Schools and Communities bid to the DE call. This space could be used to locate a range of facilities (subject to agreement with the partners involved and an appropriate Inventory & Needs Analysis). The idea would be to run an Educational Programme (8am to 4-30pm Monday to Friday, supplemented by a Community & Clubs Programme (weekday evenings and weekends)

An indicative drawing is attached and includes facilities such as:

- 3G Multi Sports area – full size pitch (this space will be designed and 'future proofed' to evolve into the shared stadium of up to 4000 capacity to UEFA-FIFA standard)
- Small Sided games areas: 5, 7, 9-a-side zones, multi sport
- Hard surfaced (hockey, tennis etc.) area
- Education Hub: classrooms, lecture hall, IT suite, catering, ancillary facilities
- Gym, medical, drug testing, nutritional rooms, changing and associated facilities

At this early stage in the development process, Seaview Enterprises have spoken with a range of educational partners (presented overleaf) who are all very favourable and would become a formal part of the process. Belfast Education and Library Board will need to lead the bid along with Seaview Enterprises and demonstrate the shared educational capacity of a project of this type.

What support do we need from Belfast City Council?

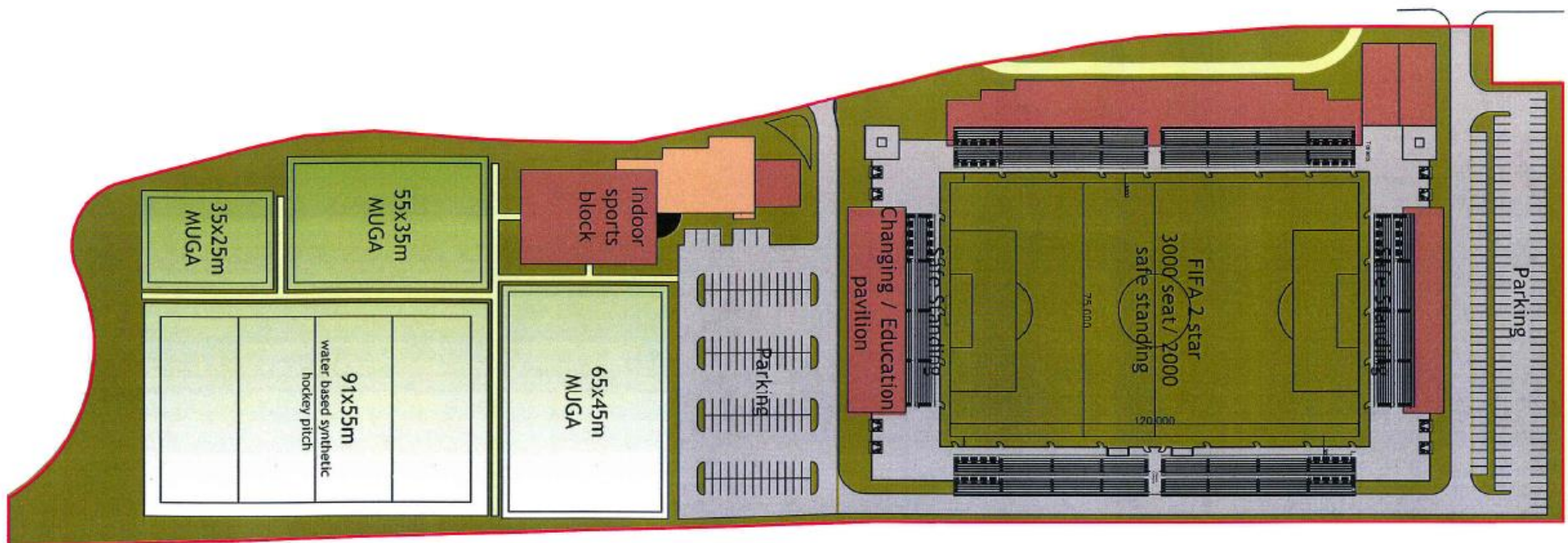
Seaview Enterprises require the following from Belfast City Council;

- Agreement to support the bid process
- If successful with the grant application, Belfast City Council would enter into a formal long term lease arrangement on the Loughside Recreation site with Seaview Enterprises CIC

INDICATIVE SCHEME

1.2 INDICATIVE SCHEME

The drawing below provides a vision of what the overall scheme would and could look like. This is for visual purposes at this early stage;



This scheme would be delivered over two phases. The first phase would be the income from the Department of Education to create this Shared Education Sports Campus in Lower North Belfast, and in future years, Crusaders FC and Newington FC (through Seaview Enterprises) would secure additional money (from DCAL, Sport NI, Own Funds, Private Sector) to develop the sports stadium aspect of the project. Early indications are that this overall scheme would not only bring about educational benefits to the young people of North Belfast, but it would help bring approx. £15 million of additional investment to the area, creating upwards of 25 new jobs in the process and allowing sport to continue supporting the development of good relations in the locality.

1.3 PARTNERS FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Delivering a project of this size and ambition will take considerable expense, time and resources from a range of partners, including Belfast City Council. Seaview Enterprises will drive the development of the partnership and have set £30,000 of their own financial resources to the side to make this application a priority. The financial resources will cover drawings, costings, business consultants, education consultants and a team to write the bid on behalf of the developing partnership. Some of the partners already signed up at this early stage are presented below;

Name of Partner	Type of Partner	Additional Information on Partner Role
Crusaders FC and Newington FC (Via Seaview Enterprises)	Bid Partner	Lead Seaview Enterprises Ltd seek agreement in principle with Belfast City Council for lease of land. Belfast City Council will be a partner to the bid, subject to formal decision in Council. Seaview Enterprises currently run Community Relations through Sport programmes at Seaview with over 40 schools involved – for a summary of the ‘Mes Que un Club’ initiative (More than just a club) which runs a range of Community Relations through Sports programmes and currently engages with over 40 schools in the broad locality – see Annual Summary Report attached.
Belfast Education and Library Board	Bid Partner to Department of Education	Representative of Controlled schools and with formal overall responsibility for Area Planning. A positive meeting with the CEO, Clare Mangan, will be followed by more in-depth engagement. It is anticipated that BELB will play a central role in the application to the Department of Education.
The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS):	Project Partner	Representative of Maintained sector schools. Positive meetings have been held with Jim Clarke (CEO) and Gerry Lundy (Area Planning Review Team). CCMS are positive about the proposal and will make a positive contribution to the Management Board.
The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)	Project Partner	Representing grant maintained Integrated schools. A meeting has been held with Noreen Campbell (CEO) and NICIE will be an active partner.
Area Learning Partnership (North Belfast)	Project Partner	Representatives for the for Primary and Post-Primary education in North Belfast will be valuable partners. Likewise, meetings have been held with both IEF and BELTIE in respect of partnership manager costs.

1.3 PARTNERS FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (cont'd)

Name of Partner	Type of Partner	Additional Information on Partner Role
Schools in North Belfast	Project Partners	<p>Integrated: Hazelwood Integrated College & IPS with support from NICIE and IEF. Hazelwood will locate the David Campbell Soccer School at this location. Glengormley and Cliftonville Integrated PS's are interested</p> <p>BELB: Currie PS, Seaview PS, Loughshore AEP provision, Lowwood PS & Nursery</p> <p>Voluntary: BRA , Dominican College, Fortwilliam</p> <p>CCMS: St Mary's Star of the Sea (Greencastle), St Patrick's (New Lodge) Holy Family (Limestone Road), Little Flower</p>

Over the past few weeks since Minister O'Dowd's announcement, initial and positive meetings have been held with the IFA (Michael Boyd, Johnny Michael) and with the GAA (Maura McMenamin, with a meeting to follow with Ryan Feeney) with a view to linking the school Soccer and GAA schools coaching programme to the Sports Village. Belfast City Council should take great comfort and confidence in the fact that there is so much positivity and energy about this pending project. Belfast City Council should also note the following additional information

Supporting the Incumbent

Loughside FC currently manage the sports pitches at Loughside Recreation facility on behalf of Belfast City Council. They have formed a strong lobby to deal with the opening changes of the Belfast City Council Facility Management Agreements. As part of our bid process, Seaview Enterprises have secured agreement from Loughside FC that they will relocate to Brantwood's Pitch in Lower North Belfast to pave the way for this large ambitious development. Loughside FC, Crusaders FC, Brantwood FC and Newington FC are developing a soccer facility strategy for Lower North Belfast as part of this future bid process

Compliments the Girdwood Project

It should be noted that this bid is cognisant of the inter-schools partnership provision envisaged at the Girdwood site between Belfast Royal Academy, St Patrick's Bearnaghea and St Malachy's College. The schemes will compliment each other and, taken together, will not meet the need within the Lower North Belfast area. Essentially the 1 x 3G pitch at the Hubb Facility will not create the shared educational requirements that Minister O'Dowd is looking for as part of the Shared Educational Campus project, nor will it come close to meeting the facility deficits identified by each school under the provision of the Department of Educations Schools Handbook

CRITICAL ASPECTS OF THE BID

1.4 CRITICAL ELEMENTS

Seaview Enterprises have provided a list of critical questions on the process and background to the proposal / fund. The critical success factors in the application process are detailed below;

KEY QUESTION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
The Need	All schools in the consortia do not come close to meeting the facilities needs as set out in the Department of Education schools handbook. This buildings, facilities and architectural need will be captured, in detail, within the application. The need in terms of educational benefits is set out in several documents, notably by the University of Ulster , QUB the report of the Ministerial Advisory Group and by the CCMS . The economic case has been developed by Oxford Economics.
The Site	It goes without saying that the site, on the main Shore Road running from Donegall Park Avenue to Mount Vernon would be perceived to be within the PUL community. It is a sensitive site in community relations terms and does need the involvement and support of the clubs, the community and whole political spectrum to succeed. A consultation process is underway and wider support will be formally recorded and reported in the outline business case. Otherwise the site is well connected to main road, motorway and public transport routes, with the longer term prospect of a rail halt at the site
Support of Education Authorities and the Education Programme	In order to succeed, the bid will require the support of the BELB, the CCMS, the Integrated sector and the individual schools. It is expected that all will be formally in support of the bid. To date, positive engagement has occurred with BELB and CCMS, NICIE and IEF have indicated support as have all the schools involved (all currently work within structured programme's run by the Seaview Enterprises initiative "Mes Que un Clube"
The Education Programme:	The education programme will be run by the schools. Indicative funding is available to fund an Education Partnership Manager, subject to application. The main partnership manager will liaise closely with a School Project Board made up of representatives from BELB, CCMS and NICIE
Evidence of Existing Sharing	Evidence of existing sharing is being collated from participating schools at present and will form part of the outline business plan

CRITICAL ASPECTS OF THE BID

1.4 CRITICAL ELEMENTS (CONT'd)

KEY QUESTION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
The Need Projected enhancement in Sharing (shared classrooms and shared learning, learning about each other)	The degree to which there is quality, shared learning experience will be the main critical factor in the success of the project. The QUB Shared Education Research Centre has agreed to work with the project from the outset and monitor the progress of the provision. A shared education programme will be agreed by the key partners (BELB, CCMS and NICIOE) and be supplemented by tertiary provision from BMC and Bryson-Future-Skills, in the Expression of Interest
Community Relations	Enhanced community relations is at the heart of the project. Both Crusaders FC and Newington FC have deep community roots in the surrounding localities. Both clubs are currently engaged in an in-depth community relations through sport initiative – “Mes Que un Clube” (see attached summary) The key local community and voluntary sector ‘umbrella group’ LTAD (Loughshore Community and Development) will be represented on the project board. The aim to make the Loughshore Sports and Educational Village a key educational and sporting hub will help transform the confidence and pride of the local and wider North Belfast
Community Support	A community consultation will be undertaken prior to the submission of the bid in March 2014
Management	The management proposal is set out in summary, in Flow Chart format, and enclosed. Seaview Enterprises, the not-for-profit limited company of Crusaders FC and Newington FC will lease ground from BCC.
Viability	The economic viability of the project will be set out in the Outline Business Case and tested within a full Economic Appraisal
Ambassadors and Support	The move to develop a Sports and Educational Village will have the public support of a significant number of Ambassadors. These will include well known public figures such as broadcaster Eamonn Holmes, Rev Ken Newell, boxer Carl Frampton, ex Northern Ireland international and commentator Gerry Armstrong, ex Ireland and Lions rugby international Trevor Ringland, and an additional 50+ others

NEXT STEPS IN BID PROCESS

1.5 KEY STEPS BETWEEN NOW AND 31st MARCH 2014

Providing that Belfast City Council approve request from Seaview Enterprises, there are a range of actions that need to be undertaken between now and 31st March 2014. The bid will be developed by Copius Consulting, led by Liam McStravick. In the next weeks, the following milestones are envisaged;

- Facilities & Needs Analysis with each of the schools – articulating the deficits that exist in local schools facilities and DE's Schools Handbook.
- To explore the shared educational components of each of the school partners and develop an overall scheme that meets these needs
- To develop a set of detailed drawings, costings and an appropriate management structure for the future facility
- To develop an agreed project delivery team (it would be Seaview Enterprises preferred choice to work with Gerry Millar's Department in BCC and have them lead on all aspects of construction and contracting) – We would like this agreed before submission as this would lend considerable weight to the scoring and risk management aspect of the bid.
- Curriculum Shared Education: Analysis of current partnerships/activities – Consideration of enhanced partnerships/activities
- Facilitated Meeting of Schools, Partners
- Formal Decision to support: Belfast City Council, Development Committee
- Formal Decision to Support: BELB
- Formal Decision to Support: CCMS
- Formal Decision to Support: Loughside Boys FC (as the Incumbent)
- Briefing the main political parties in Belfast about the project, allowing them to shape, influence and contribute to the overall scheme
- Decision to Support: other partners from the community and voluntary sector
- Final Drawings, Costs, Outline Business Case

Further Information:

Business Planning:

Educational Partners and Programme:

Construction and Site Planning:

Community Programme:

Liam McStravick, Copius Consulting (07909 514416)

Mark Langhammer: (07918-195070)

Tom Whiteside: (07801-710642)

Bernard Thompson: (07875-081947)

liam@copiusconsulting.co.uk

mlanghammer@atl.org.uk

tommywhiteside@sky.com

bernard@morethanacub.org