



Craughwell AC

Facility Development Plan

2021-22

Introduction

As most will know, the club launched an ambitious development project back in 2014 which involved the purchase of 8 acres of land adjacent to the primary school in Craughwell and the development of outdoor and indoor track and field facilities and other facilities over the following 15 years.

We are almost halfway through that plan and have achieved an awful lot over the years since 2014 including the sprint track, the long jump and high jump areas, the shot putt area, grass running routes, the 800m perimeter walkway and the recently completed building comprising toilets and community exercise room.

The club has spent over 750k on the project to-date funded by membership income, fundraising, grants and loans from parents and from Community Finance Ireland.



Next Priority

The next priority is the outdoor 400m track and the club are at an advanced stage to complete this over 2021 and 2022. The club hope to accomplish this in 2 steps with your help and with the help of State grants:

- The first step will commence in the middle of this month and comprise the construction of a 6-lane 400m track to tarmac level. It will be adjacent to and adjoining the existing sprint track.

These works will be funded with the help of last year's 42-challenge fundraising and a repurposed State grant from 2017 (original purpose was towards an indoor sports hall) and further fund-raising.

- The second step will take place the following summer and will comprise laying a standard red tartan rubber layer on the 400m track similar to our sprint track. This will be funded hopefully with the help of another State grant.

See the appendix for the detailed layout of the 400m track. The club are very grateful to Craughwell GAA for agreeing to the transfer of a small area of land at a pinch-point along the boundary with the GAA grounds – which gives us sufficient space for a 6-lane track. The club are also very grateful to a number of people who are doing work on the project free of charge, including Ciara Lennon Solicitors who is doing the legal work for the land transfer, Kieran Quinn of Sean Dockry & Associates who has done all the plans / design work / tendering process, and Ignatius Greaney & Associates who are providing engineering services for the project.

We need your help – please don't stop reading!

In 2014, many parents of current members at the time gave loans and donations to the club to assist with the land purchase – raising loans of €80k and donations of over €20k. Without this assistance, we would never have been able to purchase the 8-acres. It was of particular help in attracting finance from our major lender Community Finance Ireland as it illustrated members' confidence in the financial success of the project. We are in a similar position now in that we need to raise between €40k and €60k in loans and donations for phase 1 of the 400m track this year.

We are appealing to the parents of current members for this help. We need to raise these funds by the end of May or at least get an idea of who is willing to loan or donate so that we can factor it into our decision-making. We will have to delay the tarmac phase if we do not have the funds or commitments to the funds in place by the end of May.

Mike Tobin can provide you with full financial details of the project since 2014 and the projections for 2021/22 if you need them when considering a loan or donation. Just contact Mike @ tobinm1@yahoo.com or 087 659 1879.

Benefit to you

The club has demonstrated the fantastic benefit of its facilities to families by providing a safe environment in which children and adults can exercise. While the value of this to people is not quantifiable in financial terms, it is helping to keep many people physically and mentally healthy through exercise.

It's also beyond doubt that the better we make the facilities, the longer children and adults will continue to use them and stay healthy. Everyone likes to have the best possible facilities on which to train and exercise. So in reality for the benefit that people get, this is probably one of the best possible investments of your money.

We are seeking this investment in either of the following ways:

- **Donations**

The Revenue Commissioners operate a scheme of support for sports club whereby if a PAYE taxpayer donates a minimum of €250 to the club, the club can gross this up and claim back the tax that was paid by the PAYE taxpayer.

An example is if a parent donates €300 and is a 40% taxpayer, the amount is grossed up to what it would be before tax (€500) and the club can claim the tax part (€200 in this example) back from the Revenue Commissioners at the end of the tax year.

The club would like to encourage parents who are in a position to do this to make a donation in respect of our 400m track project. All donations no matter how big or small, will be much appreciated as every little helps in reaching our target.

- **Loans**

Loans are absolutely the easiest way of raising funds quickly. The club are seeking 1-year, 2-year or 3-year loans from people for amounts between €1000 and €10000.

The loans would be at an interest rate of 5% and repaid on the agreed timeframe. The interest payable will be deducted from annual membership fees or paid annually depending on what the lender prefers.

To put this into perspective, if you have savings intended for college education in a few years' time, you or your children are likely getting no benefit from these funds at the moment due to 0% interest rates. So by giving the loan to the club for a short number of years when you don't need the funds, costs you nothing but will provide immense benefit to your children over the next number of years.

The club has an exceptional track record of repaying members' loans, repaying or replacing €47,500 loans from parents in the 7 years since 2014. So even though the loans are unsecured loans, parents can place their trust in the club that they will be repaid as agreed.

If you are considering giving a loan or donation, it would be appreciated if you could let Mike Tobin know if possible by the end of May. Details of individual loans and donations are kept confidential to just the 5 Trustees of the club and the Treasurer.

More information

The club fully understands that before making a loan or donation, parents will like full financial details on the club's performance over the last number of years and projections for the next few years.

Parents who are considering a loan or donation should contact Mike Tobin @ tobinm1@yahoo.com or 087 659 1879 who will make all the information available to you that you need to make your decision.

Thank you for reading and hopefully between us, we can deliver the 400m track over the next 2 years!

