



Hebden Bridge Saints JAFC – Proposal for Brearley Fields

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I. Hebden Bridge Saints Junior Associated Football Club

Formed in 1984, Hebden Bridge Saints J AFC (HBS) is a football club for boys and girls from ages U7s to U18s. We currently have 15 boys and girl's teams. We also run an U6s Saturday soccer school and a girl's Monday night soccer club. We have in excess of 250 registered young players.

The boys play in the Huddersfield League. The girls play in the West Riding League.

As a Charter Standard Club, we are committed to having coaches trained to FA Level 1 minimum. All managers, coaches and committee members are volunteers.

Young players of all abilities are welcome at Hebden Bridge Saints.

II. Club Key Objective

HBS wants to have good quality football pitches on which to play. It is essential that we have enough pitches in the local area to have a maximum of two teams per weekend playing on a pitch.

It is also important to have spare pitches. These allow the club flexibility to leave a pitch when it has been overplayed. Pitches often become unplayable in January and February.

The quality of the pitches is of crucial importance, as quality pitches encourage players and volunteers.

A key objective of the club is for boys and girls to play football from the age of U7s to U18s. We believe this foundation will encourage children to play sport throughout their adult lives. We believe the benefits of playing a team sport is huge for both the individual and the community.

III. Current Problem

Number of Pitches

We do not have enough pitches in the Upper Calder Valley. We are currently unable to meet our basic pitch requirements. The situation will get worse next year as teams progress up to sizes of 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11.

We are not in a position to encourage more children to play football.

We are currently short of 4 pitches (Appendix 1) and will be short of 7 pitches by 2020/21. These figures are only based upon current intake of children and do not provide for the possibility of increasing the number of teams.

Prior to the flood on Boxing Day 2015 HBS used the pitches on Brearley Fields. The 'Calderdale Playing Pitch Strategy' states that the first aim of the local plan is to retain existing pitches. We need to use these pitches again.

The previous pitches can be seen in Appendix 4.

Quality of Pitches

We currently have 15 teams playing for HBS. We do not have an U15s, U16s or U18s team. We only have 1 team for the U13s and 1 team for U14s. This is well below the trend for the local area as seen in Appendix 2.

Reasons for this vary, however we believe a key factor is the lack of quality playing surfaces and general facilities. Some of these ages groups have tried to play on Stubb Field but with its pronounced slope, drainage issues and relative inaccessibility this has often been the end point for these teams.

Type of Pitches

We do not have enough 7v7 pitches. Scout Road is the only 7v7 pitch and this is prone to flooding.

Control of Pitches

HBS does not own or control any of the pitches it uses. The two 9v9 pitches it uses are rented from Hebden Royd Primary and Burnley Road Academy. The

club is reliant upon the generosity of these schools but fears with budget cuts, costs will rise and potentially maintenance will suffer.

IV. Proposal to use Brearley Fields

Hebden Bridge Saints J AFC wants to take over an area of Brearley Fields to cover our forecast requirements (Appendix 3). We want to reinstate 2 pitches (11v11), create 1 new (7v7) pitch and 1 new (5v5) pitch.

Brearley Fields is prone to flooding, however the section of the field we want to use floods much less frequently. This would be manageable as it has been for several generations of football players on this site.

We want to take over the area covering our forecast requirements denoted in Appendix 3. We would prefer to take this as an asset transfer however we would also be interested to take the land on a long-term lease.

We would be happy to work alongside any other group who wanted to use the other portion of the land, however if you required the entire asset to be transferred to one entity, we would be happy to take the entire piece of land.

If we were successful with taking over the land, we would cut back the vegetation and seed the pitches to be available for the 2018/19 season.

V. Club Capability

The club has been looking for development opportunities for several years. We believe we already have the development funds raised and available to get the pitches operational for the 2018/19 season.

We have a very large network of ex-players, parents, guardians and friends to ensure this venture will be a success. The club Governing Committee is fully behind this development.

The club has a stable and relatively flexible income stream.

VI. Community Benefits Supporting the Proposal

We would be very keen to allow the broader community to use this space.

We would be able to work in partnership with Calder High School. The facilities could be available for school sporting lessons and matches. Calder High School could use the space for Rugby League in the summer months.

VII. Appendices

Appendix 1

Age*	Pitch Size	Teams per pitch	Current Teams	Current Pitches	Current Pitch Variance	Forecast Teams 2020/21	Current Pitches	Forecast Pitch Variance
Under 7	5v5	2	2	1	0****	2	1	-1
Under 8	5v5	2	1	1	0****	3	1	-1
Under 9	7v7	2	3	1	-1	2	1	0
Under 10	7v7	2	2	0	-1	3	0	-2
Under 11	9v9	2	2	1	0	1	1	0
Under 12	9v9	2	2	1	0	3	1	0
Under 13	Youth 11v11	2	1	0	-1***	2	0	-1
Under 14	Youth 11v11	2	1	0	-1***	2	0	-1
Under 15	Adult 11v11	1**	0	n/a	n/a	2	1	-1
Under 16	Adult 11v11	1**	0	n/a	n/a	1	1	0
Under 17	Adult 11v11	1**	1	1	0	1	1	0
Under 18	Adult 11v11	1**	0	n/a	n/a	1	1	0

Notes

* Girls teams included in year below actual age so they are included on appropriate pitches

** Only 1 team per pitch as adult pitches shared with Open Age teams

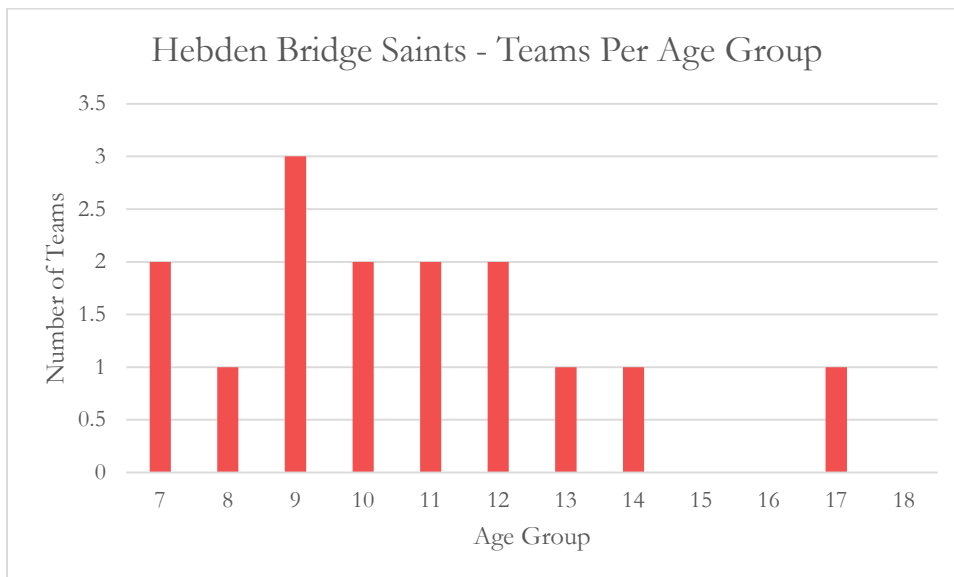
*** these shortfalls currently being mitigated by teams playing on pitches that are not the right size

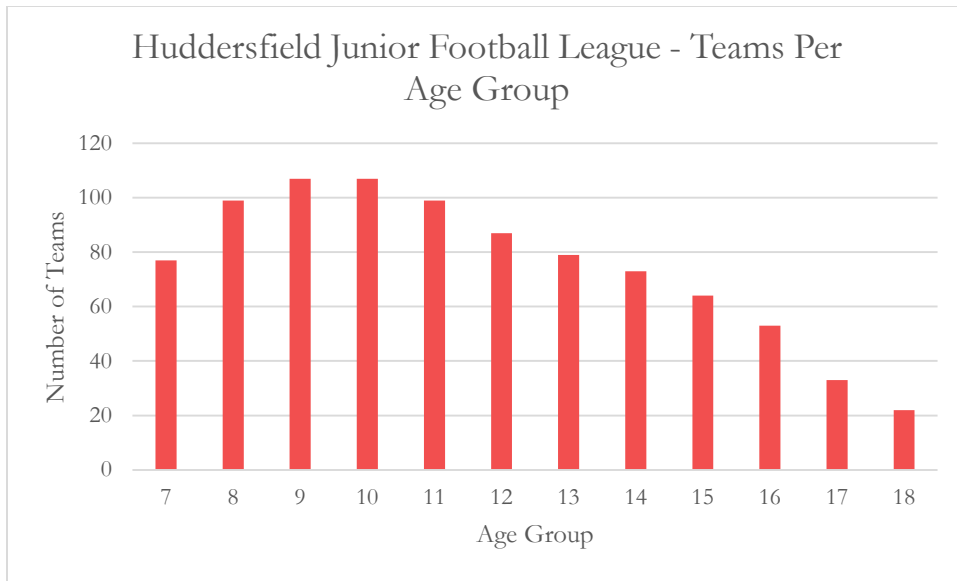
**** Although no shortfall at present these teams are playing on pitches not approved by the FA, which contravenes the rules of the league they are in

Forecast Assumptions

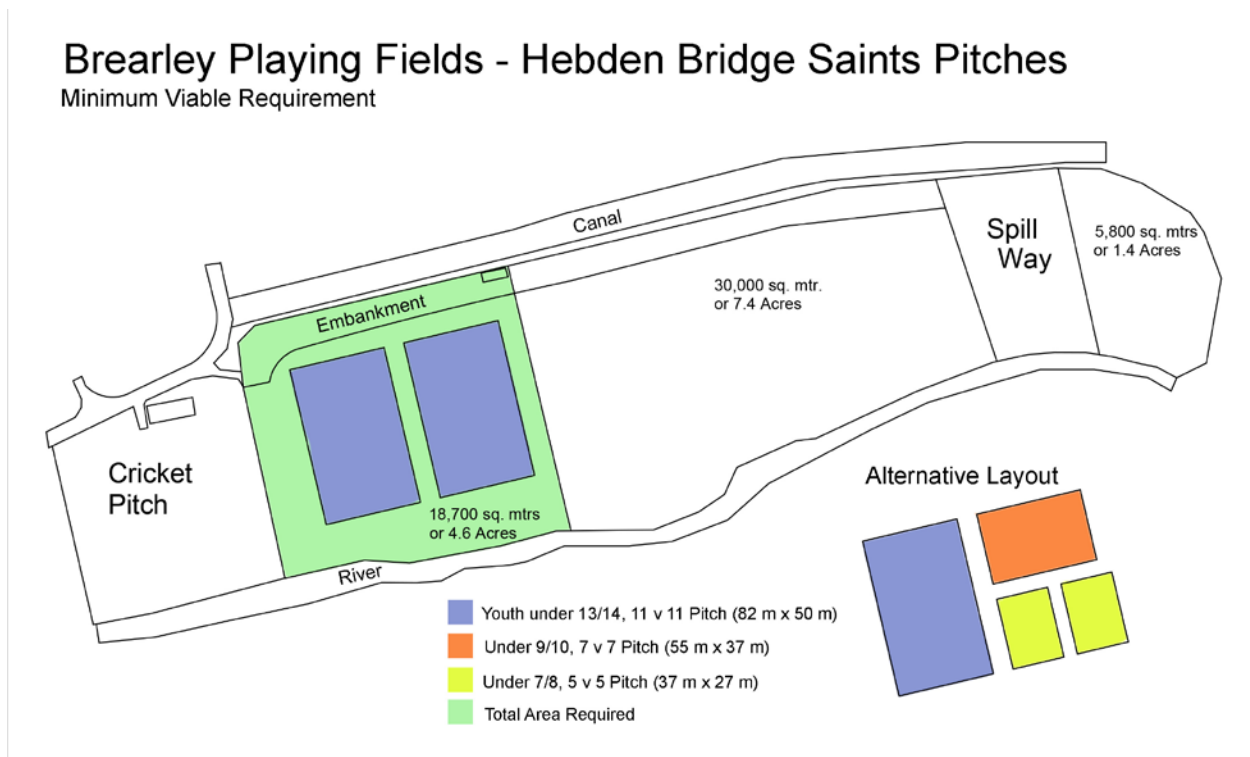
1. All current teams will continue, provision of adequate pitch facilities going forward is a key factor for this
2. We will continue to follow the clubs Team Development Strategy of having 2 boys teams at each age and 1 girls team at every other age (combining girls from 2 school years)
3. We are very enthusiastic about the plans for a new full sized 3G pitch in our local area but as we are forecasting a shortfall of 7 pitches we would not be able to meet all this demand even with exclusive use of the pitches for 5 hours on Sundays between 9am and 2pm. We also have no guarantee that the club will have sole use of the 3G pitches as many other local clubs would also want to use them.
4. The under 7s and 8s teams will stop using the pitches they are currently using and will play on pitches that meet the requirements of the Huddersfield League

Appendix 2





Appendix 3

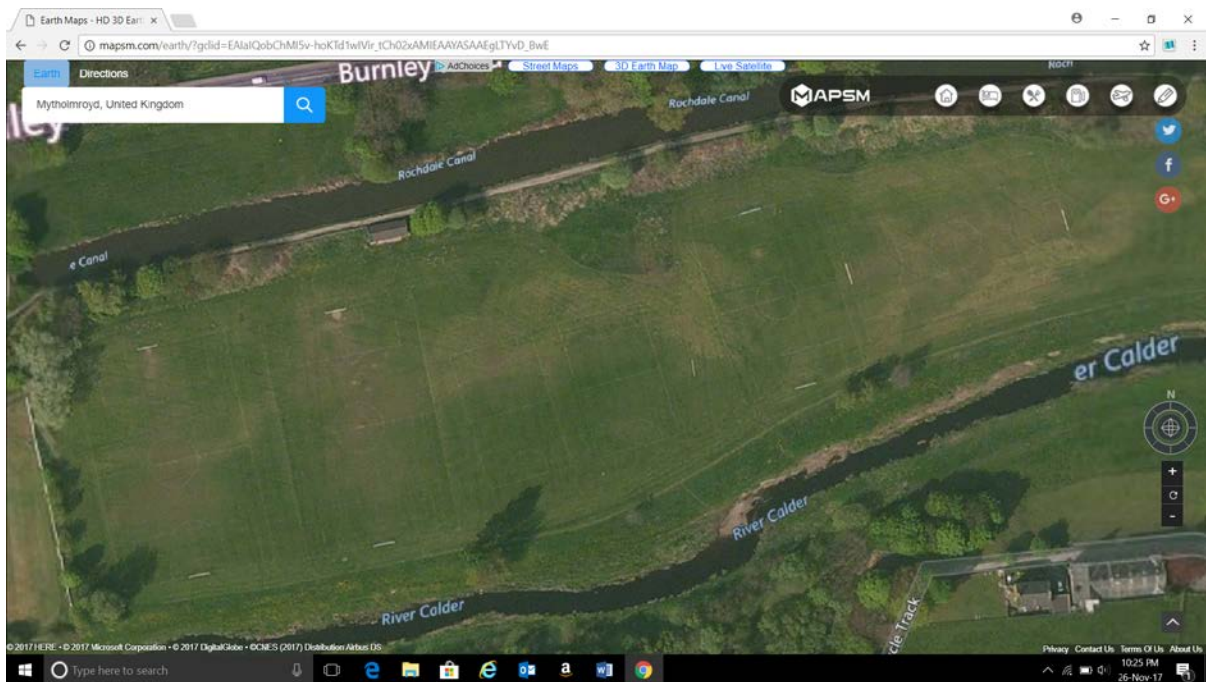


Brearley Playing Fields - Hebden Bridge Saints Pitches

2020/21 Forecast Demand Requirement



Appendix 4



VIII. Club Contacts

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