



**Bloomfield Football Club
8 Houston Park
Belfast
BT5 6AT**

Change of use application

Ryan Haire
Sports development Officer
Belfast City Council

22/11/19

Ryan,

As requested, please find below additional information regarding Bloomfield FC's proposal to replace our shipping container currently located in the carpark with a classroom / Portacabin.

Bloomfield FC has a junior and senior section providing football for all, regardless of community or ethnic backgrounds. We have around 300 junior players, both male and female playing in 22 teams at age groups from 2015 – 2001. The senior section has 60 players across 3 teams, we have 45 coaches, 16 committee members and between 600 to 800 supporters made up of parents, grand-parents and ex-players.

We propose that the portacabin will be no more than 45ft in length and 32ft in width. It is our intention to purchase a second-hand unit therefore at present we are unable to give exact costs, but we do not intend on investing any more than

£10,000. We hope to pay for the unit by a variety of fundraising events or funding opportunities through the likes of the national lottery grant.

BCC will need to supply services for the portacabin, in terms of water, sewage and electricity, we have club members who could carry out this task, but this may go against council procedure.

The inside layout of the portacabin we will look to purchase will consist of a large area to act as a classroom, a separate or open plan kitchen, a storeroom and ladies and gents' ablutions.

Our club is one of the largest in Belfast and we have outgrown the facility through the support of the BCC management agreement, we need additional space so we can carry on with our work to expand the club.

The main users will be members of our junior section, our junior section has grown by around 60% over the last 3 years and we do not have anywhere to congregate and are missing out on vital opportunities regarding education of the players.

We propose to use the facility every Saturday from 0730 am to 1800 pm and during the week when required from 1700 to 2000.

The facility will be used for a variety of activities,

- Education – for players and coaches – to include courses like safeguarding, drug awareness and IFA accredited coaching. We also work closely with Lynne McCreery from BCC, members of our coaching staff volunteer at various camps set up by council and the classroom would be ideal for that purpose. Homework clubs can be set up for the junior members to attend before training also.
- A safe and warm place for junior players, parents and grandparents. During the games parents of toddlers generally do not stay, we would like to target this issue by having them congregate at the facility so toddlers can mix together, and the parents get the chance to meet new people and stay at the ground while the game is ongoing. As proven by the running club having the use of the park pavilion, a facility helps build numbers by bringing people together in a shared space.
- Breakfast club – the junior players meet at 7.30am, by having a breakfast club we can assure players are properly nourished before games. The parents will provide this service by volunteering. Again, this will bring the parents together and make them feel part of the club.
- Other sporting codes at the site i.e. rugby, IFA, partner football clubs will be able to book the facility to carry out the educational needs of their club.
- Community groups – We work closely with various community groups like Sure Start, we will look to get them more involved by asking for additional awareness courses for our junior players especially around July.

Yours in Sport
Dee Carroll – Bloomfield FC Chairman.