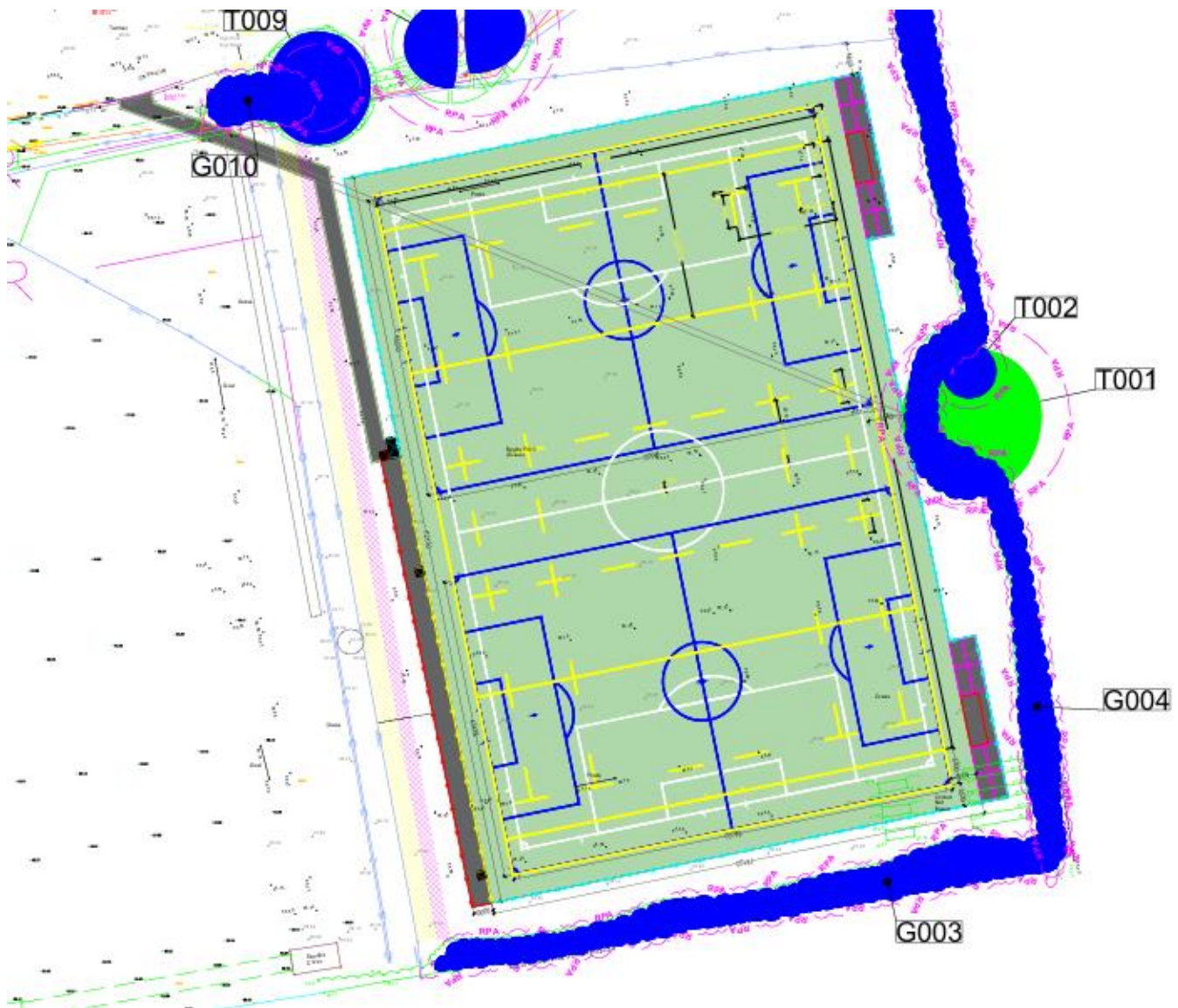


3G Pitch update 22.7.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

The few students who were in on Monday were excited by the diggers on the field by the primary school. This was another piece of the complex jigsaw for the planning application for the 3G pitch. Although I await the final plans (hopefully next week), it will look a bit like this



The primary school is to the right of this (the blue is the hedge line and that Oak tree) and to the north is the driveway and car park (the blue is again the trees there). It will be 100m long and 64m wide.

Thanks to Cotswold Infrastructure Levy Funding from Cotswold District Council (£723k) and local fundraising and grants, we have managed to fully fund this project. Not one penny has come from school funds and the overall cost will be approximately £1.5m. Local support for this project has been significant in achieving this.

The next steps are to finalise the planning application and a huge debt of thanks is owed to Colony Architects and Ed Mather in particular who has unstintingly given his time for free to coordinate this. His work has undoubtedly got us further down the line and faster than we would have otherwise done. Also key in our application continues to be Rob Forbes who has masterminded all the ecology reports and bat surveys. Part of this planning application will be Cotswold Archaeology digging more holes in that section

of the field to check for interesting things: <https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/farmors-school/>. I aim for this to be completed over the summer holidays.

If all goes well, we will submit the planning application in August and look to tender for the project in around October / November to then be building it early in 2027. That will be pretty much two years from the date this all started. We are delighted to be working with local football and rugby teams who are going to be using The Pitch and providing great opportunities for all ages to get involved in sport. This will include Wild Cats football for girls; girls' football; walking women's football; football for all ages (mixed and for boys); rugby for all ages; women's rugby and walking rugby as well as the senior men. We also will be setting up a s-side league for recreational play and looking at the possibility of sevens rugby.

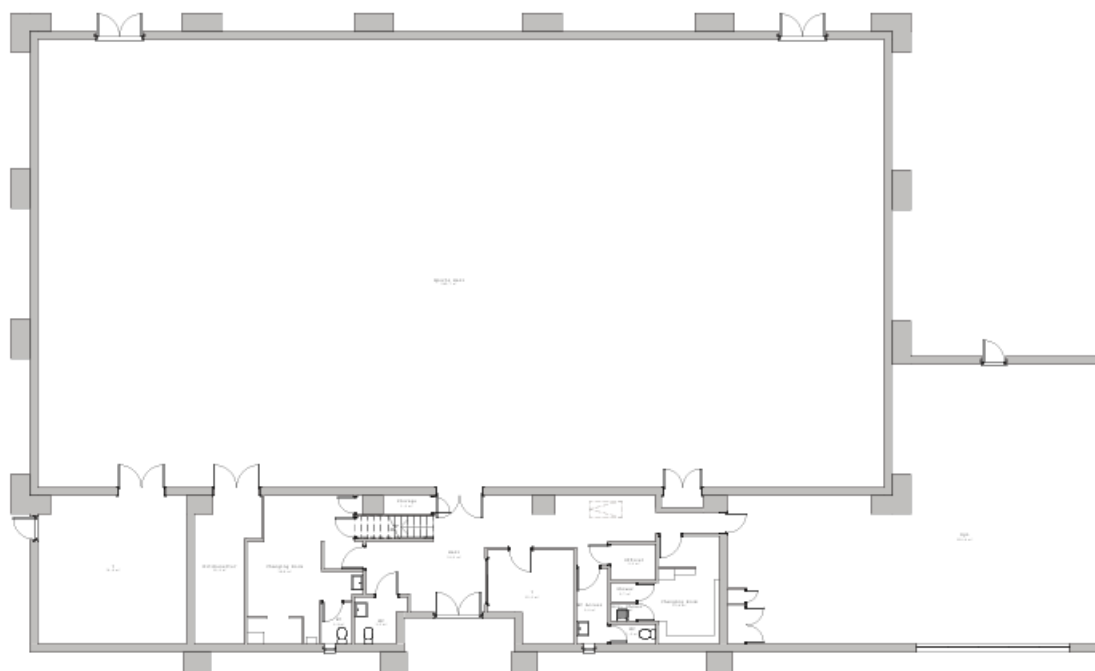
But there is more....

The plan was always to follow up with working on the sports hall and netball courts as well. The roof, the changing rooms, the gym.... It is not in a good state and we have not been successful in bidding for funds to improve it through educational funding. As The Pitch proves, once you open up school facilities for more community use, there are funds you can apply to. And we know from the earlier community consultation survey in September last year, that the community would like more access. We also need to look after the clubs which currently hire the facilities. Fairford is a growing town and we are seemingly catching the zeitgeist in these projects to provide more opportunities for being physically active.

So, we have used earlier feedback and some creative ideas to put together some draft proposals for the development of the sports hall. They are just a starting point for community consultation. I am sure you have all been in different sports halls at different times and have seen things you liked. That experience would be very useful in helping us to develop the plans to really work well for all our clubs, but also the wider community. I cannot stress enough how early we are in the process for this and getting the right plans is the first vital step. There is a survey at the end if you feel able to comment.

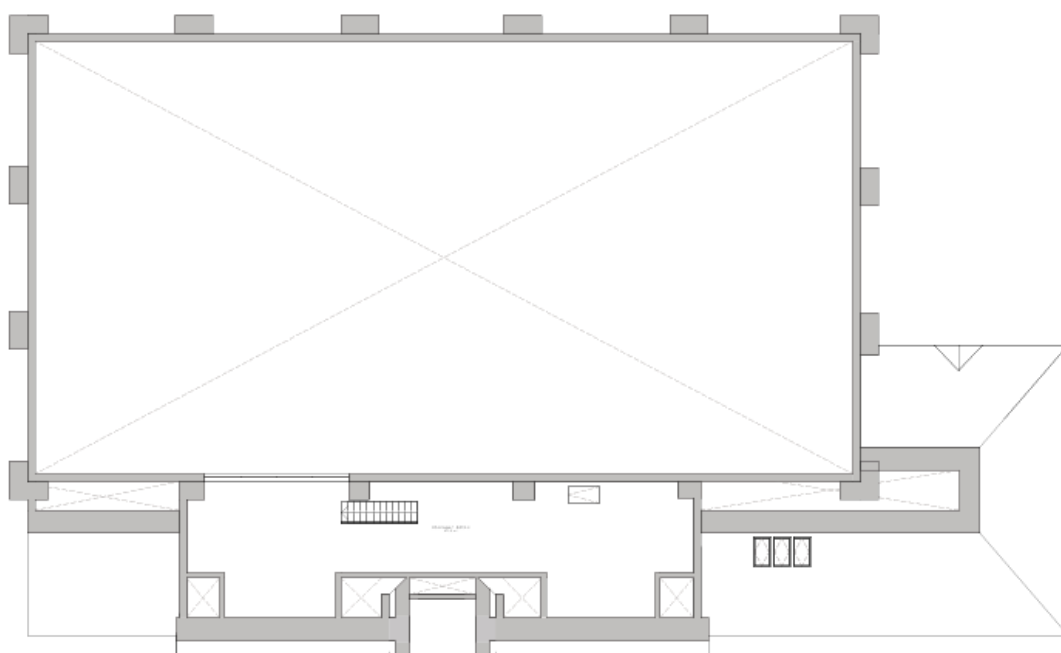
SPORTS HALL - EXISTING PLANS

[EXISTING DRAWINGS]



THE EXISTING SPORTS HALL

The existing sports hall is arranged over two storeys and provides a range of facilities to support indoor sports and fitness activities. At ground floor level, the building comprises a multi-purpose sports hall, gymnasium, small changing facilities serving the gym, WCs, a staff office with kitchenette, and ancillary storage accommodation. The sports hall is currently affected by a leaking roof, which has resulted in ongoing maintenance issues and reduced operational efficiency. At first floor level, the building contains a substantial attic/storage area which overlooks the sports hall through an internal window. Whilst presently used for storage, this space has the potential to function as a viewing gallery for spectators or coaches, subject to any necessary alterations and compliance requirements. Overall, the building provides the core facilities required for sport and recreation use; however, its condition, limited ancillary accommodation and inefficient use of upper-floor space highlight the need for refurbishment and modernisation.



The proposal is to extend both floors to provide better school and community facilities – and, of course, get solar panels on the roof!

The new ground floor layout would include Home and away (or male / female) changing rooms with toilets and showers and capacity for 18 players. These would service the 3G pitch.



There would also be officials changing rooms and a physio room. These things meet the criteria and spec for the RFU and FA, which is important when seeking funding routes for the renovation.



There is still a reception but also a lift to the upper floor.

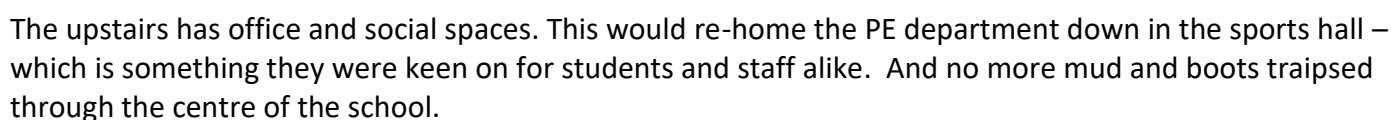
Where the existing gym space is, we propose extending it to provide more gym facilities. There are new lockers and changing rooms for the gym spaces and showers as well for those.



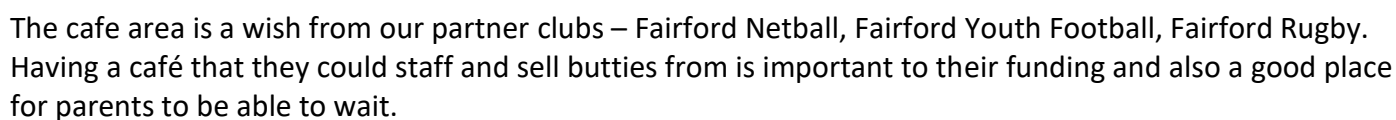
There are two exercise spaces which can serve as indoor PE classrooms, but also are for hire out of school hours. The perfect places for teams to do strength and conditioning training, for fitness classes, for yoga classes etc etc. And for public use before and after school.

There is also an outer staircase to an upper terrace. Below that terrace would be a lockable bike store for secure storage for those who want to cycle to the sports hall.

Here is the overall picture:



The group room makes a small classroom – or a room that could be hired perhaps.

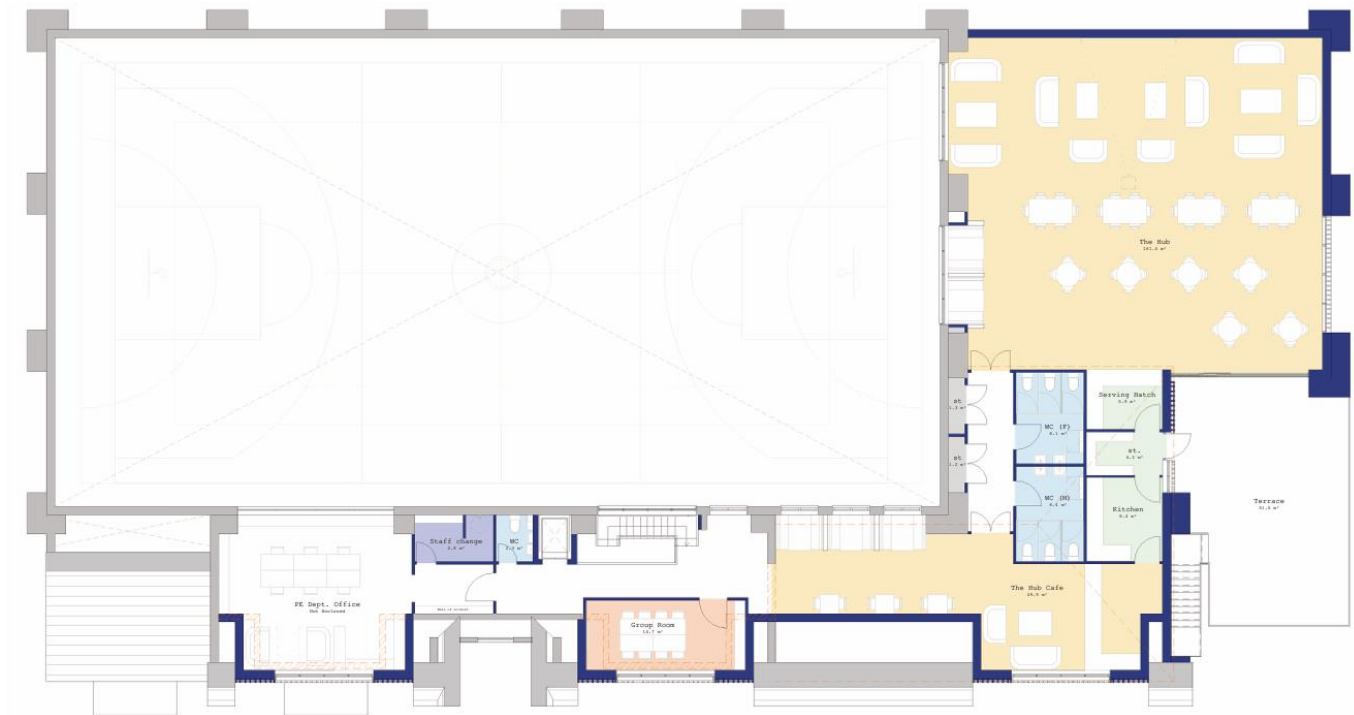


The social space (The Hub) would be an exam room for students in the summer which would be a better experience for students. It would make a classroom for PE in the school day. It could also be a conference space which could be hired. And of course, it would be a social space to hire in the evenings and weekends. Again, the aim is to have flexible spaces that maximise use to school and also potential for club and community use. Social spaces for clubs to use is an important consideration particularly for FRFC. Our carpark also helps with congestion in the town for such social events.

There are more toilets and also the terrace for watching sport on the sports hall field.



Here is the overview:



We are obviously consulting with the existing users of the sports hall as well as the school population and the community. So I am sure these plans will be refined and changed. But they are a good start.

I would really appreciate your thoughts on these outline plans. I will be sharing them with the wider community as well, but do feel free to pass them around as the more views we have the better the chance of really refining them into the best perfection we can manage.

As before, community support is vital in fundraising and again, we will not be using any school funds for this, but seeking to repeat what we have achieved with the pitch. And there will be fundraising activities which I hope you will want to get involved in.

If you would like to see the plans in more detail, they will be in Fairford Community Centre from 31st July 2026.

In the meantime, please do complete the survey: [Pitch In! Farmor's School and Community Sports Hub: Community Consultation – Fill in form](#)

Thanks to Mr Salvidge we have a website and that is also where details are shared and donations can be made: [Pitch In](#)

And, if you want to get in touch with me, please do: ewhite@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk.

Thank you

Emma White.
Deputy Head