

Craughwell Athletic Club

c/o Michael Tobin, Grenage, Craughwell, Co. Galway

Phase 3 of Craughwell AC Facility Development

6 December 2017

Dear Parent,

The club prepared a development and financial plan back in 2014 seeking loans and donations from parents and setting out our plans to purchase and develop an 8-acre site beside the school. We received amazing support from parents with €80,000 raised in loans and more than €30,000 in donations. In the intervening 4 years, we have achieved most of what we set out to. We even over-achieved in some areas as we installed extra floodlighting and a sprint track 10x140m in 2016/17. Phase 1 (site purchase) and phase 2 (roadway, carpark, floodlights, sprints, jumps and cross-country areas) are now complete. The club spent €471,000 on the development as well as €20,000 on professional fees and maintenance over the 4 years, funded by outstanding loans of €174k, grants of €126k, fundraising €119k, savings €44k and membership income €28k. It has been a remarkable 4 years considering the club had nothing to start with.

We are now scoping the plan for the next 6 years and invite you to continue your invaluable support

Over the course of the next 6 years, the club wish to develop an outdoor 4-lane 400m running track, a perimeter pathway, an athletics training hall, toilets/changing rooms and throwing areas. The plan is to develop these facilities in stages seeking grants for each aspect of the development and proceeding as soon as finances allow. The top priority from a survey of members in July is the 400m running track. The other large element in the plan is the provision of a 24x36m athletics training hall for which the club applied for a Sports Capital Grant last February and were recently awarded a grant of €72,000 to get started with its development. The club is not seeking loans or donations towards the training hall at this point in time as the grant will be sufficient to get it started, most likely in 2019.

In keeping with members' wishes, all focus is now on raising funds toward the construction of the 400m track which is estimated to cost in the region of €180,000. The club will be applying to the 2018 Sports Capital Programme for a grant towards this and hope also to raise a further loan from Community Finance Ireland. CFI are the financial institution who have already loaned us most of the funds borrowed for the facility development. To achieve both an SCP grant and a CFI loan, it's vital for the club to also raise matching funds and to this end, we are now seeking loans and donations from its members specifically towards the development of the 400m track. The track will cost in the region of €180,000 and we hope to raise €90,000 in loans and donations with the remainder grant-aided.

So please support us with loans or donations - see the attached brochure for more details. For those who have already given us significant financial support, a very sincere thank you. Please feel under no pressure whatsoever to give further support as you have already done your share ... but at the same time we won't turn down any offers of support!

Donations

The club is seeking donations from members however large or small. If you wish to do so over a period of time, Loughrea Credit Union will facilitate this by given you a loan of **€500** to donate to the club and you pay them back at slightly **over €5 per week** for 2 years. If you have a strong preference for how your donation is spent, please indicate this to the undersigned and the Trustees will ensure that your donation is spent on that element of the facility.

Member Loans

The club is seeking members loans of **€2,000 to €5,000** for a period of **5 years** at an interest rate of 5% or interest free if possible. The loan will be repaid in full at the end of 5 years.

If your children are in the club, the interest will pay for their membership and any remaining balance will be repaid to you, as well as a guarantee that their membership will not be increased for the duration of the loan.

To support this initiative or to get detailed information on the project financials, please contact either of the following in the strictest confidence by **Friday 16 February 2018**:

Facility Development Officer
Club Development Officer

Mike Tobin
Mark Gillen

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086 816 2637

tobinm1@yahoo.com
markgillenster@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,

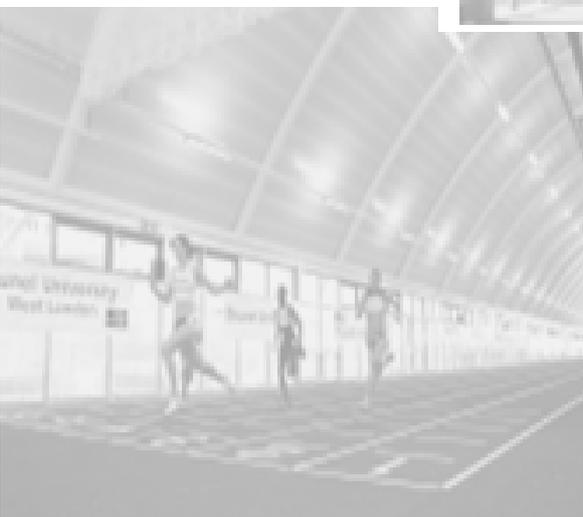
Mike Tobin,
Trustee & Facility Development Officer



Craughwell AC

Facility Development Plan

Phase 3
2018 - 2023



Introduction

Back in 2014, we published a plan spanning the years 2014-2030 in order to raise loans and donations from parents and financial institutions to purchase and develop an 8-acre site in Crinnage adjacent to the school. Our confidence was high that with the many **committed coaches** and a strong membership of **over 500 juveniles**, that the club had the capacity to deliver a facility for its members.

Initial plan was to proceed as follows and of course review and adjust plans every few years:

- 2014 – Buy the field and develop outdoor long jump, high jump and grass route running areas
- 2017 – Addition of indoor building, entrance roadway and car park.
- 2022 – Completion of indoor building
- 2030 – Addition of 400m IAAF outdoor track

We achieved much of this – adding the tartan sprint area as well but not the building due to costs. To date the club has spent just over €471k on the land purchase, roadway/carpark, lighting, long jump area, high jump area and sprint track.

This was funded by grants of €126k from the Sports Capital Programme and Galway County Council, loans of €174k and an incredible €171k raised in membership income and fundraising. This was in addition to a €20k spend on legal and planning fees and annual maintenance of the grounds in the last 4 years.

Remarkable progress in just 4 years! The club is indebted to its members, coaches, committee, parents, local businesses, local politicians and the local community for this support.

Membership is still exploding with over 600 members at the end of last year and the club expects membership to stabilise now around the 550 to 600 mark. The club has been the **largest juvenile club in Ireland** for a number of years now and is now looking ahead to phase 3 of its development to accommodate the needs of these members.

During the summer, we surveyed members to determine priorities with an outdoor 400m track, perimeter pathway, sportshall, toilets and changing facilities and throwing areas being identified as the priorities in that order.

As some of these priorities are grant-aided and some not, the next phase of the development is currently scoped to include them all over a 6-year period subject to sufficient funding being achieved for each aspect. If grants are not available the plan will continue with more fundraising or loans required, most likely over a longer period of time.

The next page of this document details the scope of Phase 3 of the development. It is estimated to cost in the region of €1,000,000 over the duration of the plan. This may or may not be achievable in 5 years but as always if we aim high and achieve a little lower, we will still have achieved a lot.

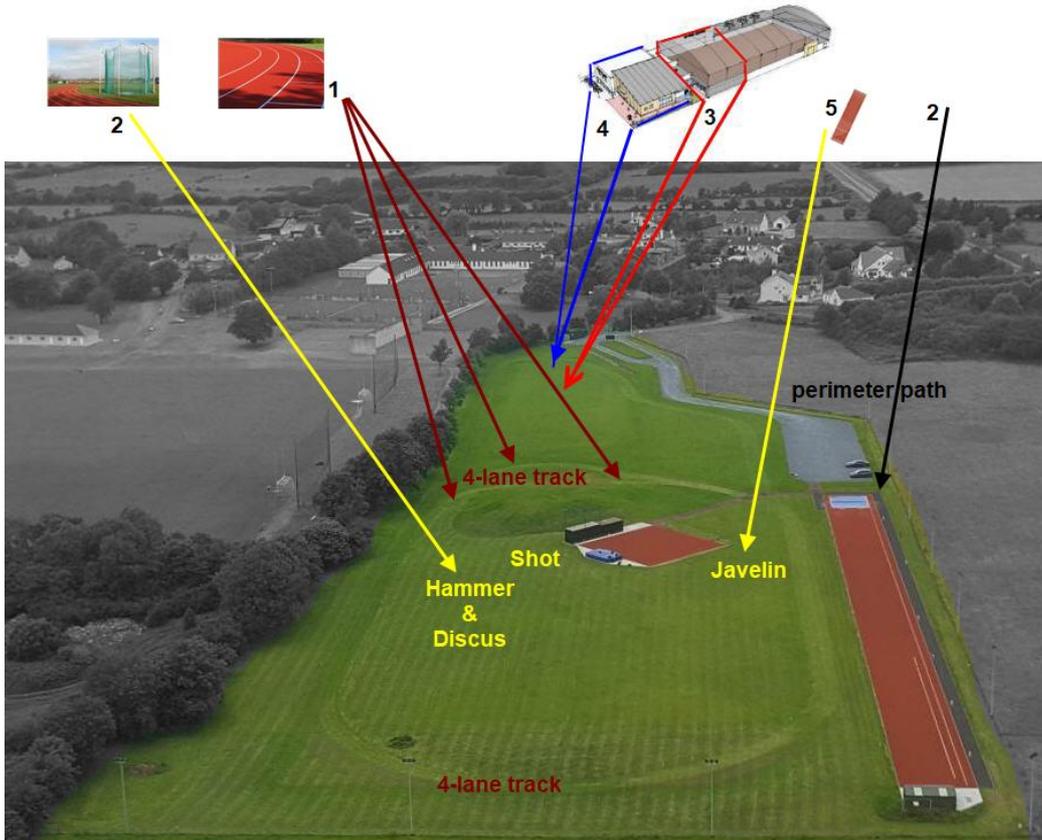
The intention is to provide new usable training areas each year of the 6-year plan so that our members get to benefit from all funds contributed quickly rather than having to wait many years. The club plans to seek grants and loans for each phase of the development.

It particularly needs your support for the 400m track element of the plan which is the top priority and for which the club hope to obtain additional grant aid. If all went well, a 400m track would be complete in 2019 but we need to raise a lot of loans from members to help finance it. Our target is to raise €50,000 in such loans.

We also need to encourage you to donate money to the club to help progress the plan or support us with corporate sponsorship, play our Lotto etc. All financial contributions however large or small are welcome.

We are a large club and **together we are stronger**. If everyone chips in, the plan is very achievable as grant authorities and our main lender will see that level of support, match your contributions and back our vision.

Scope and Timing of Next Phase



Description	Provisional		Work Item
	Start	Finish	
1 Oval track	2019	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct 4-lane 400m track
2 Perimeter path	2019	2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend to school boundary Complete remainder
3 Sportshall	2019	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excavate site and erect frame Put roof on Complete externals Complete internals
4 Toilets/changing	2019	2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install sewage/percolation Construct toilets/changing
5 Throws areas	2018	2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move existing mats to javelin runway Put in concrete bases for throws Construct tartan javelin runway Install discus/hammer cage
6 Carpark	2020	2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarmacadem carpark

Funding the work

None of the achievements to date would have been possible without the incredible financial support we have received from many members. We really sincerely hope that the work done to date meets your expectations and hope that you will continue to support us. We are successfully obtaining grants and loans to develop facilities quickly but need to supplement this with fund-raising. The following is how we are funding it and how you can support.

Grants

Exciting news reached the club this week that we were the recipient of a €72,000 grant from the 2017 Sports Capital Programme towards the provision of an indoor athletics training hall. The grant was applied for early this year prior to our survey of members priorities. In the light of that survey, phase 3 has been expanded to include the other items prioritised in the survey including in particular a 400m track which will be the first priority to address.

The grant is one of the largest awarded to local projects in Co Galway under the 2017 Programme and is testament to the marvellous work being done by the coaches and committee within the club, the tremendous dedication shown by our athletes and the fantastic support that the club has received from the parents and the community for the facility development to date. The club are indebted to Ministers of State Ciaran Cannon, Seán Canney and Seán Kyne for the invaluable advice they provided when the club was preparing the grant application last February.

Most of all, the club is indebted to the fantastic team of over 40 coaches and committee members who drive the club forwards and to the many wonderful families who financially support the club's facility development.

The grant award is wonderful news for the club and a big vote of confidence in what we are doing both for the social and recreational health of our members and also the development of athletes to their potential, some of whom will hopefully go on to great things as young adults and many of whom will have developed a great habit of regular exercise which will stand to them for their lifetimes.

We are in the process of applying separately for LEADER funding towards more community-oriented aspects of the development such as toilets and a perimeter pathway and will also apply to the 2018 Sports Capital Program for funding to get a grant towards the 400m track and the throws areas and are very confident of success with this.

Loans

The club are fortunate also to have the support of Community Finance Ireland who agreed in principle to provide further significant loans to the club as part of the next phase with the exact details to be worked out. CFI's mandate is to lend to the community and voluntary sector and the club have found them to be excellent partners in its facility development. In fact, the club already received 3 loans from CFI in 2014, 2015 and 2016 towards the development.

The club also wish to appeal to parents to support the next phase of the development by giving 5-year loans to the club. This worked very well for the club in Phase 1 of the development with €80,000 raised initially in loans from parents. This funding was instrumental in securing the CFI loans as it was an indication of local confidence in and commitment to the project and was vital in getting the original deal to purchase the land over the line.

Full details on the club's finances will be given to members who express interest in giving a loan to the club to assure you that the club's finances are well-managed. Some of our existing members loans were funds set aside for third-level education of their children and it was an ideal use of the money for a couple of years to help fund a facility that provided for the physical education of their child. The following are the proposed details of the loan:

- Loan amount: €2,000 to €5,000
- Interest rate: 5% per annum – or optionally interest-free if you can afford it
- Duration: 5 years

If your children are in the club, the interest payable will be offset against their membership fees and the balance paid to you, as well as a guarantee that their membership fees will not be increased for the duration of the loan.

Donations

To date since launching our development project in 2014, we have received over €30,000 in donations with an incredible €27,000 of this coming from 26 families. We hope to broaden this to include many more families. Making a donation is easy – just decide the amount and contact the undersigned! We are a sports body with tax exemption status, so donations would be tax deductible. The money will go directly into the development of the above facilities which will be available to you/your children to enjoy for many years to come.

To make donations more financially viable, we have partnered with **Loughrea Credit Union** who will provide low-cost loans at their community interest rate of 4.5% if a family wish to take a small loan and donate it to the club. The Credit Union will lend **€500** costing €5.00 per week for 105 weeks – a total repayment of €524. Contact Margaret Loughnane from the Credit Union (091 841773) for more details.

Club Lotto

We recently launched our own club lotto - to sign up just go to www.craughwellac.com/site/index.php/lotto. We want to really push the lotto as it has the potential to become our main means of fundraising. In the longer-term we want to move to membership, lotto and advertising as the sole sources of income so that we can all focus on the development of the athletes in the club rather than spending time on fundraising.

We pay 35% of the income each week into the jackpot as well as 5% to the match 3 prize fund and 10% commission to the online lotto provider, leaving 50% of your payment as profit to the club. As well as appealing to parents and the community to support our lotto, we are appealing to friends and families and former members wherever you are to support us – it provides vital funds for the development of one of the best sports clubs in Ireland.

Corporate Advertising and Sponsorship

The club are seeking sponsors of its 8 sprint lanes for a once-off contribution of €2,500 per lane. In return, the club will erect a permanent sign bearing the sponsors name or logo or a motivational phrase selected by you if you prefer to remain anonymous. The payment can be made in contributions over 2 or 3 years. We will provide you with full financial details on the facility development if interested in this option.

Many local businesses already support us by advertising on our annual calendar/business directory at a cost of €100 to €250 per year. This has generated vital funds for the club over many years and is instrumental to our success. The calendar is delivered into more than 500 homes in the locality. Please contact the undersigned if interested in either of the above options.

Park Membership

We want the community to use our grounds. Separate to athletic club membership, we offer people a membership option for our sports park which will enable you to contribute to its upkeep and development for the small amount of €50 per year (i.e. less than €1 per week) for the use of a fully-lit facility at designated hours all year around.

Acknowledgements

The club is indebted to a number of professionals who have given of their time freely or at little cost in helping with our developments to date, including Noel Gorman for architectural drawings/planning applications, Iggy Greaney for engineering drawings and RFQs, Conor Waters for QS costings and Ciara Lennon of RDJ Solicitors for legal work associated with the development. The club would be delighted if you took note of their names for any future work you might have in their area of expertise as they have been of tremendous help to us.

For more information, please contact: Mike Tobin, Facility Development Officer, Craughwell AC
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