

THE NORTH STAND REDEVELOPMENT: HOW YOU CAN HELP

The decision to postpone a decision on the planning application for the North Stand redevelopment is obviously frustrating, but the bottom line is that the planning office's report on the merits of the application was not ready to be heard at the allotted time. We can argue until we're blue in the face about whose fault that is, but ultimately there's nothing we can do about it now.

HOWEVER, THERE IS PLENTY THAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP ENSURE THAT THE DECISION ON THE APPLICATION – WHEN IT IS HEARD – GOES IN OUR FAVOUR.

The next two weeks provide rugby and football fans with a real opportunity to put some pressure on the politicians, reminding them of the voting power that supporters have and the strength of feeling that there is within the local community in favour of the application.

Below are five things that YOU can do if you really want to make a difference.

1. If you live in Bristol, and especially in the vicinity of the Memorial Stadium, then put this poster up in your window. If we can get posters up in lots of houses in the area then it will send out a message about the strength of feeling in favour of the Bristol Shoguns' and Bristol Rovers' home having adequate facilities.
2. Write a letter to the local paper expressing your support for the application, quoting some of the main points below and highlighting the implications that its defeat could have for the future of Bristol's professional rugby club and its oldest football league club.
3. If a canvasser or candidate comes to your house or approaches you in the street, ask them (politely) what their or their party's view is on the application for the redevelopment of the Memorial Stadium, in particular the current North Stand application. Again, stress to them the merits of the application, as detailed below.
4. If you live in the Ashley, Lawrence Hill or St. George East wards then the sitting councillors who are up for re-election (Dudley Saward, Brenda Hugill and Charles Price) all currently sit on the committee that will decide the outcome of the application. Ask them for their views on the application and push the benefits of a "yes" vote to the local community.
5. Bristol West is a marginal parliamentary constituency. If you have the opportunity, ask each of the prospective candidates for their views on the redevelopment of the Memorial Stadium

However, please remember to BE POLITE. The decision has been delayed because of more information being required by planning officers in response to objections raised by those who are against the project. That is not the fault of the politicians – they have not yet been asked to make a decision on our application so it will be totally counter-productive to get on the wrong side of them.

WHY WE NEED A YES VOTE.....

- The current facilities at the Memorial Stadium are completely inadequate for a sports stadium in the 21st century
- The new stand will provide much needed seating and other family friendly facilities seating for the people of Bristol to watch rugby and football
- In the past ten years numerous other rugby and football clubs around the country have been granted permission to significantly redevelop their grounds to meet modern day requirements.
- The stadium is extensively used by the local community on non-matchdays but the facilities are inadequate. The new development would allow the club to further develop the club as a community hub
- The new North Stand development will include facilities such as classrooms, lecture rooms and an IT suite that will directly benefit all of the local community
- Failure to acquire the new facilities and the revenue-generating opportunities they will bring will – quite simply – damage Bristol Shoguns' income and threaten the future of Bristol's oldest football league club.

VOTE

YES

FOR THE NORTH STAND