

# Topic Planning Permission – Failing to Plan

**Overview** Following the introduction of a new committee structure in the club one of the priorities was to address the situation of the club's outdoor practice facility. The club worked with its National Governing Body to address what needed to be done and how the funding application could be put together. The club decided that a new larger facility would be best for the club's needs and those of the local community.

A key factor in the construction of a new facility is gaining planning permission. This process can take between 8 and 13 weeks to acquire however the club overlooked this.

The club had a meeting in March with the funding application deadline being in September of the same year. For the September deadline the club were told they would need to provide the correct number of quotes for the project, agreed partnership funding and confirmed planning permission.

**Key Issues / challenges** A planning application costs £335 and despite this being a small amount in a project totalling £40,000. It was suggested internally that the club should wait to apply for planning permission in order for the club to save money until it was absolutely necessary.

The club hadn't checked the time a planning application would take and assumed they could leave it to within a couple of weeks of the funding deadline.

When the club did put in the planning application they then realised they were too late and so missed the funding deadline meaning the project would be delayed by a further 6 months at least and would increase in cost by approximately 5%.

**Solution** The only thing the club could do was accept that they had missed the initial deadline and wait for the following round of funding. However this time, they would ensure they allowed enough time to put forward their planning application in time for it to be submitted before the deadline.

**Outcome** The club are re-applying for funding with a new deadline of March 2013 and are aware of the requirements of them. This will have huge consequences on the installation of the practice facility and its usage by the club.

By having the practice facility installed over the winter it would have been ready for the club to use to help prepare for the following season but with the delay, the players and season preparation will suffer and it will cause the club disruption as they look to be ready for the season.

**Key Learning Points** A club, when developing a project, must understand the timelines it has to work with and the sequencing within that timeline.

Depending on the funder a club is using, the criteria will be different and so the club must ensure they are aware of everything that is required of them.

The level of detail required often varies and clubs must ensure that they account for everything that is necessary.

Clubs must use the support and resources that are available to them, particularly members of the club with skills that can be used in project development and know what is required and when.

A simple decision can have large consequences. Take careful consideration when making choices throughout the planning and constructions phases.

Clubs must consult with statutory bodies at an early stage regarding the type of consents needed for the project, the cost and the time frames involved.

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Recommended relevant templates / toolkits / links for further advice	'Developing a Project from Concept to Completion' – <a href="http://www.ecb.co.uk/places">www.ecb.co.uk/places</a>
	'Making a Planning Application – A Guide for Sports Clubs' – <a href="http://www.ecb.co.uk/places">www.ecb.co.uk/places</a>

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