

## Topic

# Considering the Neighbours

### Overview

The club in question came to the conclusion that their practice facilities at its ground were inadequate for its size, membership and future plans.

In light of this, and in consultation with its National Governing Body, the club decided it would replace the current system with a larger facility.

The club is in close proximity to local houses and the impact the new practice area would have on local residents would be a large issue for the club to deal with.

### Key Issues

The issues involved were that during the Summer months the practice facility would be used every weekday evening between 6pm and 8.30-9pm approximately. With the amount of playing members the club had this would result in large amounts of noise coming from the club during those hours and so disrupting the neighbours.

Due to the close proximity of the houses the club's local authority requested that they undertook studies to understand the noise effects the practice area would have. Unless this was done the planning application would not be considered.

This investigative work delayed the planning of the project and so added to the costs.

The club desperately needed the new practice facility but had to find a way to appease the local residents and not cause too much inconvenience.

### Solution

After much time was consumed on research studies, attending local council meetings and looking at possible solutions, the club came to the conclusion that it would need to build an acoustic barrier alongside the practice area. The cost of the acoustic barrier added approximately £7,000 to the original estimated cost of the project.

### Outcome

The club's planning application, with the inclusion of an acoustic barrier, was successful and the new practice facility was installed just as the club had planned.

The local residents were happy in that the impact upon them had been considered and action had been taken to limit that impact.

### Key Learning Points

Undertake feasibility studies early on in project planning to help determine any issues that may arise.

It is important for a club to consider all factors and stakeholders in any project.

Ensure that you employ the right people with the right skills when undertaking research or risk assessments for projects.

Clubs should always consider their duty of care to local residents.

Issues such as this need to be considered when budgeting for a project. Work carried out to undertake necessary research can add a significant amount to the total costs.

Clubs should consult other clubs that have installed new practice facilities that are also in close proximity to residential areas to find out problems encountered and subsequent solutions.

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Recommended  
relevant templates / 'Developing a Project from Concept to Completion' –  
toolkits / links for [www.ecb.co.uk/places](http://www.ecb.co.uk/places)  
further advice

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