

**Mr Nick Blofeld
Chief Executive
Bath Rugby**

29 November 2013

Dear Nick,

Thank you for coming to FoBRA on 25 November and explaining the proposals for your new stadium. FoBRA members will try to form a view when we have all the information in front of us, and I'm glad you were able to meet the committee as a whole. I said we might write to you with some questions that need answering, so I should be grateful if you could give us a clear response to the following points, which we shall be publicising locally.

Visuals of the proposed stadium

We need to see much clearer and more accurate external visuals of the building from all directions. Nearby viewpoints should include the riverside, North Parade Bridge, Orange Grove, the Empire, and more distant locations the far side of the Recreation Ground and the hills to the south of Bath. We should particularly like to see better representations of the East stand. For comparison the visuals ought to show the height of the existing features – trees, floodlights, buildings etc.

If you are intending to plant new trees along the riverside, these should be represented at their height when planted, not as they might develop over decades.

Roofing material

What material will you be using, what colour(s) will it be, and how does it look from a distance?

West Stand

We are concerned about the height of this stand, particularly in the centre. To what extent can you reduce the height?

East Stand

Is it really feasible to have a roof on this demountable building? Can its height be reduced? Could the roof be raised on match days and lowered at other times? Indeed, does it need to have a roof at all, given that some of your supporters like to brave the elements?

How temporary is this temporary stand? How long will it be in use, and how long will it take to assemble and demount it? Where will it be stored when not in use? You mentioned making it available for events elsewhere: do you have any actual takers for this?

Weather stability

How stable will these open roof structures be in high winds?

Riverside walk

We should like to see more detail of your proposed treatment of the riverside walk. What are your plans to enhance it?

Transport arrangements

How many more supporters will there be at the Rec on match days? What are your proposals for sustainable transport? What are the arrangements for pedestrian and vehicular movements in the immediate area?

Cafe and bar facilities

What is the proposed size and character of the new cafe and bar facilities on the riverside? What hours will they be open? How will these be controlled in such a way as to prevent disturbance to residents?

Publicity

Our immediate conclusion after speaking to you is that the club has a lot more design and engineering work to do before you will be ready to submit a planning application. We you need to hold another exhibition covering the issues raised above before you submit the application itself, so that everyone in Bath can understand fully what is proposed.

As always, we should be very happy to discuss.

Best wishes,

Henry Brown, Chairman