**Response to Broom Boats letter to planning dated 25/5/2017 Re Muga facilities:**

**Norfolk FA comments:**

1. Norfolk FA do not support this proposal of the MUGA pitch due to the surface not being suitable and not being 3G and in turn this will not be suitable for formal football use as it does not meet the FA’s Community Use testing requirements.
2. The FA wants to specifically encourage development of AGP’s that meet needs for as many formats of football as possible and where the strategic need can be demonstrated this would be 11 v 11 or 9 v 9 with smaller formats fitting into each of these overall size areas.

**Local/national football organisations comments**

1. Brooms state that the Muga provision is suitable for the under 10’s but the plans have no changing or toilet/welfare facilities. This raises serious safeguarding issues
2. As there are no changing facilities or clubhouse on site, this will discourage informal use
3. A National sports company rep specialising in Football/rugby training stated that their experience in Muga’s do not work. The array of uses for our planned 3G football sites are as below amongst may other uses:
4. Holiday Clubs
5. Walking Football
6. Open usage for local residents
7. Girls football courses
8. Football bootcamps
9. Elite Football
10. Grass Roots Football
11. 1 to 1 Football
12. Birthday parties
13. Educational activities involving Primary school level up to 16 + college level
14. Adult learning
15. Community Education (eg 9 week) courses sports development to gain experiences in health and fitness
16. Apprenticeships
17. If affiliations with charity organisations and local government/colleges/universities are forged then BTEC and other courses can be run to assist in the training up of prospective footballers, coaches, grounds people, physiotherapists, administrators, planners etc.
18. Creation of a new local Football club eg Brundall FC.

**The above possibilities may be income generated which is why the facility created must be all encompassing to ensure its sustainability going forward**

**Our planned 3G pitch will increase visits to Brundall and support the local economy**

1. It is acknowledged that there is a current decline in 11 aside Saturday/Sunday football. The reasons for the possible decline may indeed be due to lack of suitable 11 v 11 pitches and in particular grassed pitches which as is agreed do have a limited time use per week (7 hours as per Brooms report). As such this could in turn be a possible reason for a slight increase in small sided football but it needs to be said that small sided football is NOT played on a MUGA. The Parish Council’s plans for a full size 3G is therefore all encompassing in terms of football and other possible training uses as stated.
2. The usage of a MUGA is for kickaround and casual enjoyment, as oppose to a 3G whose usage and potential is vast. 3G has much more usage than a MUGA. Eg Lowestoft owned Sentinnel site. Figures can be obtained on request. No local clubs are known to use a muga for training or otherwise.

**Comments from representatives of Blofield United and Acle Rangers and other local team players and managers**

1. “Both myself and my husband have ran a youth football team for the last 10 years at Blofield United Youth Football Club, we have also been associated or involved in local adults football for many year. My husband has played for both Blofield United and Acle Rangers for most of his footballing life and has been treasurer of Acle Rangers for over 25 years. I myself am a qualified primary PE teacher and for 10 years worked at Brundall Primary School, with the last few years of my time at the school as PE coordinator.

Through our experiences there appears to be a huge need for additional playing and training facilities, as a majority of local teams do not have enough pitches to accommodate all their teams and have to play in neighbouring villages or have to stagger kick off times to allow as many teams as possible the opportunity to play at their home pitch. Likewise, training facilities are at a premium and finding a suitable floodlit all purpose facility can be difficult and expensive. In the past few years there has also been a huge increase in interest for girls football teams, so additional facilities need to be made available to encourage the popularity of girls/ladies football locally.

Brundall has historically lacked in recreational facilities and people within the village who have been keen to join a football team have always had to look elsewhere. Having those facilities available within the village would give the village a greater community spirit and identity and enhance the well-being of all its residence. It is not only about playing football it is about village identity and cohesion, giving local people the opportunity to watch, support and follow a village team, producing an environment where generations can come together with a shared passion”.

1. “I also managed the 3G facility at Thorpe High School for 2 years. This facility was always over subscribed with at certain times of the year a waiting list for usage being over 30-40 groups. It was always extremely popular for local teams both youth and adult as well as casual bookings”.

**Summary planning comments as advised by LBA our agents:**

**Financial Benefits**

1. The proposal by the Parish Council is not an attempt to seek financial benefit from an approved development but to seek the means of obtaining required open space provision where there is an acknowledged shortfall.
2. Reported benefits shown to be accruing from the proposal and going to government, local authority and parish council are not unique to this development and it would be required for most housing proposals.
3. Affordable housing is a required statutory provision for all material housing developments and is not unique to this proposal.

**Recreation/Open Space**

1. On site provision is provided in accordance with Broadland District Council’s policy. Off site provision other than at Links Avenue is not possible. A thorough and detailed study was implemented through the Parish Plan and the Local Plan process indicating a significant shortfall in recreational open space in Brundall resulting in the two most appropriate sites being allocated to meet that shortfall. **The developers proposed in lieu contribution for off-site provision at Links Avenue** **does not compensate for the actual significant loss of allocated recreational open space on the applicants site.**
2. Costs associated with archaeology, water supply, landscape and ecology are all matters which any developer would have to address in any application submission and cannot be regarded as planning benefits.

**Revised Site Master Plan**

The site master plan proposes a Muga which would only just meet limited youth requirement. The Parish Council have compromised significantly in suggesting that in the event of consent being granted they would be prepared to accept the provision of a multi-use MUGA – youth/adult which will require a site of not less than 1.65 Ha. This represents an area equivalent of only some 20% of the total statutory recreation allocation and is only acceptable due to the greater use flexibility of a MUGA compared with grass pitches.