



Site Context, Constraints & Opportunities

As an investment into the Borough and the local community of Bowlee, Rochdale Borough Council and Rochdale AFC are aiming to establish the site as a wellbeing and community-based activity centre.

Centred around local facilities and supporting the community, the site looks to bring together training for RAFC and improved activity space on this well-established site.

The current facilities do a good job to support the community but do suffer from water logging of pitches and tired changing spaces. The existing community centre itself acts as a home for many local clubs and services. The project looks to build upon this by increasing the facilities on offer and providing a purposebuilt hub for these much-needed services.

The site will increase the number and quality of sports pitches available for community use, while also offering facilities for a wider variety of uses. The project also looks to support the local, recently promoted, professional football team by providing a new training and clubhouse venue, allowing the local community to see their local team and also train along side them.

The existing site entrance and infrastructure lends itself to retaining building mass at it's centre. Accessed off Heywood Old Road, parking is then accommodated adjacent to the two buildings. The remaining land available to the north and south of this central service corridor, is split into private RAFC team training facilities to the south and publicly accessible playing and training spaces to the north. An existing pitch to the east gives opportunity to share facilities between professional and aspiring athletes.

The project aspires to use the facilities contained within it in such a way that the users and local community consider it to be an extension to the surrounding community park.