

The Scheme

The project is currently at the pre-planning consultation stage. Emerging proposals are being shared with local residents, sports clubs, community organisations, schools and other stakeholders to provide an opportunity for the public to understand the plans, ask questions and submit feedback ahead of a formal planning application.

Across the site as a whole, the development would deliver landscape and biodiversity improvements, improved access, parking and internal circulation, an outdoor play area along with improvements to shared outdoor spaces.

The aim not only to replace existing facilities but to significantly improve the quality, reliability and capacity of sports provision at Bowlee. Artificial grass pitches can be used much more intensively than grass pitches, including during evenings and periods of poor weather, helping to reduce cancellations and expand participation opportunities for children, young people, adults, women and girls, disability football, schools, clubs and community users.

The development would establish Bowlee as a more active and welcoming community destination. The site's dual approach would allow for both dedicated football provision and broader health and wellbeing activities.



Your Trust, a local charity delivering leisure, health and culture services across Rochdale borough, would operate the new pavilion, gym, café and community space, supporting a wider programme of health and wellbeing initiatives beyond organised football. This aligns with ongoing efforts from partners working across the borough to increase physical activity levels, reduce inequalities and create more accessible opportunities for residents to stay active.

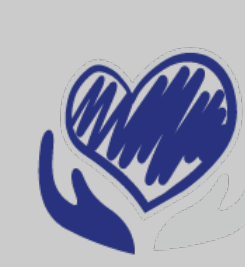
For Rochdale AFC, the development would provide an opportunity to establish a long-term First Team training and community base within the borough, bringing elite and community operations together for the first time as part of the club's long-term sustainability strategy.

Rochdale AFC Community Trust would gain a permanent home for its teams and programmes, supporting established club-community teams such as Ladies and Walking Football while enabling further growth in Veterans (over 35's), Military Veterans, refugee support (Hope), Ability Counts (disability) and All Stars (Down syndrome) teams. The development is also expected to release additional pitch capacity across the borough for other grassroots teams.

For Rochdale Borough Council, the development represents a significant investment in community sports infrastructure. It would enhance an existing public facility, address known pitch quality and drainage issues, support grassroots football, retain cricket provision, and strengthen the long-term sporting and wellbeing offer for Middleton and the wider borough.



ROCHDALE
BIRTHPLACE OF CO-OPERATION



Rochdale AFC
Community Trust

yourtrust

pozzoni
architecture

ModuleK
Intelligent, Sustainable Buildings, FAST

re-form
landscape architecture

OBI
SPORTS

abacus
Part of the Contollo Group

FMG
Sport & Leisure consultancy

enabl