

THE BATCHLEY PROJECT

Client:	Sport England
Project:	The Batchley Project
Description:	Sports pitch development and refurbishment. Refurbishment of squash courts and changing rooms and construction of new first aid, physiotherapy, administrative, social and storage areas.
Services:	Project Monitoring
Location:	Redditch, West Midlands.
Project Value:	£1.8M
Delivery Date:	May 2005



Project Summary

The project objectives were to assist the development of sport by investing in grass root activities. In this instance the project addressed the previously poor quality of the natural and artificial playing surfaces at the Redditch Cricket, Rugby and Hockey Club and allowed for the development of the club as a major community resource. In addition to the pitch refurbishment and development of new pitches, other areas of the club, such as the squash courts and changing areas were re-furbished and new changing areas, first aid, physiotherapy and administration areas, social facilities, car parking and access and storage areas were also provided. The new facilities also comply with current legislation regarding facilities for people with disabilities.

Scope of Services

Pick Everard were appointed to provide Project Monitoring services on this project under a National Advisory Framework contract. Services provided on this project included:

- Initial briefing meeting with Sport England, including a discussion on project's time, cost and quality parameters.
- Checks made against agreed and accepted design standards; estimates checked using published data and information gathered from other tendering exercises; programmes reviewed to ensure that they were realistic and established cash flow characteristics.
- As the designs progress prior to construction contract award, meetings were held with the Applicant's team to enable the Project Monitor to be kept abreast of progress and to ensure that the design offered value for money.
- Regular reports were prepared and submitted to Sport England to advise on programme matters, costing estimates, quality issues to highlight both points of concern as well as matters that were progressing well. This allowed ideas to be brought into other projects as quickly as possible. Agreement of and working to standardised formats for these reports helped SE staff readily identify any key issues.
- Encouragement of using value engineering and risk management by the Applicant.
- Monitoring and advising on the appropriateness of various procurement routes that may be suitable.
- Regular attendance at site meetings to monitor progress and review of any drawings that were issued to ensure compliance with Sport England's award conditions and design standards.
- Reviewing of applications for grant payments and ensuring value for money was being obtained.

Added Value

Through the monitoring role, Pick Everard were able to enhance the project delivery and safeguard the funders interests ensuring compliance with the grant conditions and that the project objectives were met. This included:

- Rigorous procedures set up to compel Applicants to confirm third party funding as quickly as possible.
- Delay in submission of grant payment applications to Sport England to be notified and agreed with Sport England.
- Payments to be withheld until approved by Project Monitor, which will require supporting documentation.
- Significant project delay to trigger formal meeting between Sport England, Project Monitor and the Applicant's team to review reasons and offer advice, etc.
- Sport England to consider 'step-in' rights to provide, e.g. design assistance where such may be lacking.
- Greater recognition of impact of inclement weather on the laying of artificial playing surfaces.
- Innovative ideas in the provision of sports facilities to be more highly publicised to encourage wider use.
- Require tendering to be delayed until most, if not all, provisional sums are removed from the tender documents to ensure greater cost certainty.
- Sport England to make up front funding available to allow designers to be employed at an early stage on a project where the Applicant is a voluntary organisation.
- Applicants to be encouraged to use OGC Gateway process.