



Footpath/Access route repairs at Felixstowe and Suffolk Bowling Club January 2024.

The Felixstowe and Suffolk Bows Club has been, and remains to be, one of the top Bows clubs in Suffolk, East Anglia and in England. We as a club and individuals are proud to represent Suffolk and Felixstowe in National championships over the years and have both junior and senior bowlers who currently represent England and the British Isles at International level. One of our bowlers (Mr John Rednall) has gained 100 English caps during an illustrious career in bows. F&SBC is a highly respected club.

We are fortunate to have had good facilities at the Bows Club in St Edmunds Rd Felixstowe since it's build and first use in 1932. The situation of the green is unique being surrounded by huts and raised walkways and footpaths.



Unfortunately, with "old" facilities there comes a time when money must be spent to maintain the standards required.

Our management committee assure that their primary focus is to maintain and tackle any Health and Safety issues with regards to the facilities, to maintain a top class green, and that we improve, make safe or remove the areas that may prove to be unsafe and/or unhealthy to the members or the public. We are an inclusive and well thought of community club. The facilities have undergone many self-funded repairs and upgrades over the years in order to maintain and uphold the standard of the club, clubhouse, facilities and green.

Some of the Footpaths and access routes reviewed in 2023 were identified as priority work due to degradation. The cost quoted to repair 70sq mtr of footpath was £8,650.



Prior to repairs. Broken and uneven paving causing trip hazards



Most of the walkways have been overhauled on a piecemeal manner over the past 12 yrs as our own funds have allowed. During season 2022/23 it was noticeable that the St Edmunds side walkway had deteriorated to a point where trip hazards had been created due to movement and cracking of the paving therefore it became a critical and priority activity to rectify the problem.

Unfortunately, and despite major savings being made due to all roles at the club being carried out on a voluntary basis, our capital available would not and does not provide for all of the work to progressed in a timely manner. The club were not in a position fiscally to be able to pay for this work and because of this applied for assistance through Grants which were potentially available from East Suffolk Council and the Felixstowe and District Council.

Due to the high cost and criticality of the work we negotiated with the contractor to do the work in two phases utilising funding pots from 2023 (1st phase 40sq mtr @£5,000) and funding pots from 2024 (2nd phase 30sq @£3,650), assuming of course that funding grants would be available and be provided to allow the work to be planned and progressed for the individual phases.

For this “priority” work to be scheduled and completed in an acceptable time period (1Q 2024) it was necessary to apply for funding via the available council grants.

It was with immense gratitude that the 1st phase of work received a total of £3,000 in grants (£2,000 from ESC and £1,000 from FDC), and together with £2,000 top-up input from the club and members we were able to schedule the work for the 1st phase to be carried out in January 2024



Preparation for repair work



The 1st phase funded section of pathway has now been completed well in time for the new bowls season commencing April 20th 2024. This new section of pathway provides a much safer access route at the St.Edmunds side of our site as well as providing far better aesthetics in the area.



Completed Phase 1 block work. Centre picture shows phase 1 completion line to 40 sqm

The committee and members are delighted with the work that has been carried out recognising that this could not have been achieved without Council support and funding.

There remains further similar works to do (Phase 2), for which we hope to be able to gain further funding in 2024 if available. We are though very happy to have now made safe the worst area of pathway. We thank both ESC and FDC for your most welcome assistance towards the costs of improving our facilities at the Felixstowe & Suffolk Bowling Club.