IN SUPPORT OF

A FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF A SPECTATORS GALLERY

AT

LONGRIDGE GOLF CLUB
FORTY ACRE LANE LONGRIDGE
Introduction

Although established much sooner under the auspices of Preston Cycling Club Longridge Golf Club has been present at this location since 1917 taking over Fell Barn. At that time the barn and farm’s history was dating to earlier than 1799 with records referring to Cromwellian prosecutions. The club quickly evolved into the adjoining shippon and today the premises is almost unrecognisable as a farm house and barn. A lot of remodelling was done in the 60s and then later in the early 70s all to facilitate a thriving and luxurious clubhouse. This proposal further enhances the premises as a golf club by providing a spectators gallery overlooking the 18th hole on the South side of Longridge Fell.

Site Context

The site is above the town of Longridge on Longridge Fell in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Golf course astrides Forty Acre Lane and is bounded on the South side by Old Clitheroe Road. The proposed Gallery will only be visible from the South side from where the clubhouse is also the most visible. On this side the clubhouse has a 1970s feel with large areas of glazing and timber fascias. The flat roofed entrance to the clubhouse is also heavily glazed. From within the clubhouse the views across the Ribble Valley are exceptional.

Obviously the 18th hole is the focus of many events being the setting for the outcome of many matches followed by ‘the informalities of the 19th hole’. Creating a spectators gallery at this location is therefore adding to the atmosphere of match finales.

Design

As this side of the clubhouse commands extensive views of the course through large windows any gallery threatens to hinder that view for those already in the clubhouse and particularly the view of the 18th hole. The design therefore focuses on the potential to the right of the clubhouse over the flat roof entrance. The position is also ideal for access from circulation space at first floor. Again to avoid obstructions the balustrading is glass. The gallery is designed to be simple in form, support and colour. It is also restricted in size by the access road to the front of the Clubhouse. Neutral greys and non-reflective glass are chosen to blend into the existing elevation to respect its presence in the Forrest of Bowland AONB.

Access

The gallery would be accessed from the first floor of the clubhouse with an escape stair provided for safety.
Design and Access and Heritage Statement

Conclusion

This proposal is to enhance facilities at the club to ensure the promotion of the Longridge Golf Club as an outstanding facility. The spectator's gallery is designed to blend into the existing elevation at the same time as providing an excellent vantage point for match days as well as day to day games. It is believed this facility will not detract from the AONB in its design and is therefore easy to approve.