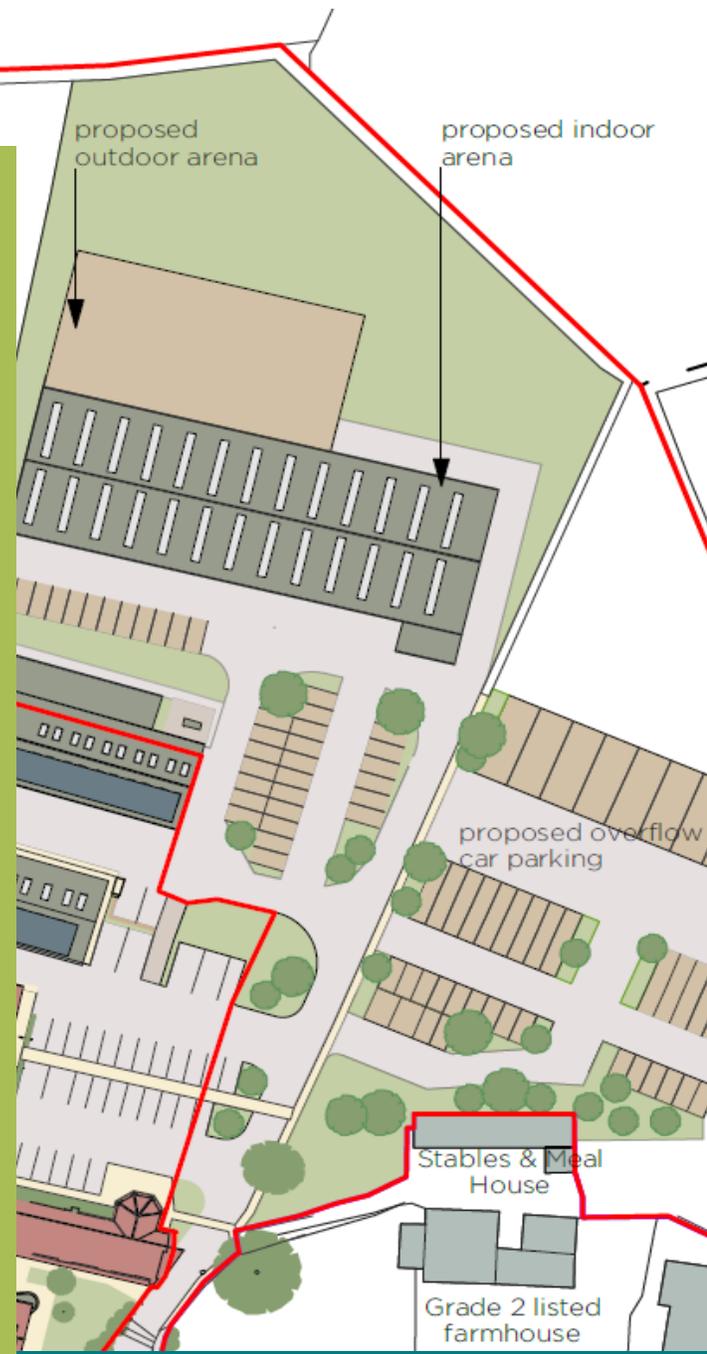


INDOOR SPORTS ARENA



FAIRFIELD FARM COLLEGE
43 HIGH STREET
DILTON MARSH



Fairfield
Farm
Trust

Charity No. 273924

FAIRFIELD FARM TRUST

ABOUT US

Fairfield Farm College is a Specialist College for students with learning and physical disabilities; including autism; we are a registered Charity, with residential, day and weekend courses. We remain true to the original vision of Ruth and Ken Hestor and we support our students with living and learning opportunities.

All students have a learning disability and some have associated medical needs and sensory impairments. Some students have complex needs requiring specialist support to develop their independence skills. Many of the students are vulnerable and need a high level of support to keep them safe. Fairfield continues to redevelop and upgrade amenities to ensure that it meets the requirements of all its stakeholders and provides a comprehensive and individualised learning programme for all its students.

This includes:

- Independence training through the i-curriculum
- Vocational learning (enterprise, farming and animal management, equine and stable management, sport and exercise)
- English, maths and IT skills
- Work-based learning (café, retail, catering, customer care and office skills)
- Supported Internships and work skills programmes
- Regular external work experience, initially with an appropriate level of support
- Careers advice and guidance from employment team

Our 26-acre farm site based at Dilton Marsh in Wiltshire, includes well-resourced teaching and vocational learning areas, a student common room, conference room, café, post office, farm shop and a multi-use games area. We offer residential programmes delivered in our six houses in the village.

In 2018, we acquired the Hope Nature Centre, a café and animal park which training opportunities for young people and adults with learning difficulties, as well as a community facility.

HISTORY

The Charity was founded in 1975 by Ruth and Ken Hester, when Ruth inherited the farm from her father. With support from Wiltshire Council, Fairfield was established as Rural Training Unit for young adults with learning difficulties. Students were taught agriculture and horticulture skills to support them to find work. Some students resided in the farmhouse with Ruth and Ken Hester and later in the cottages they acquired next door.

The Rural Training Unit grew slowly, employing a part-time teacher and residential care staff. The only buildings on the college site at the time were a few wooden huts before the agricultural building was constructed in 1979 followed by the student common room area in 1988. Subjects were added to the curriculum which included engineering, equestrian, catering and dairy. As the unit grew it took in more students and employed further staff. In 1981, it purchased the Horticultural nursery site and branched out into the field of employment.

In 1984, it purchased a house in the High Street for purpose of a residential care home which it extended in 1986 (and again in 2003). In 1994, the cottages were completely refurbished which became an additional student house and in 2006 it built a new house on adjoining land. An additional residential property owned by the trust was purchased in 2012 and a further 2 in 2018.

In the early 1990's the Rural Training Unit became Fairfield Opportunity Farm, an independent specialist college providing residential and vocational learning.

Work on modernising the college site began in 2000 with an ambitious 5-phase build project. The new project is an additional phase.

THE PROJECT: INDOOR SPORTS ARENA

THE AIM

To build a new indoor sports and education facility on the college site, behind the agricultural building, in keeping with existing buildings on the site. This facility would be multi-use and available for the community.

These activities include:

- To provide sheltered facilities for the students to work with animals
- All-year horse riding (current facilities are unsheltered and need replacing)
- Disability riding (hoist facility)
- Opportunities for students to gain specialist qualifications working with animals
- A range of sports and physical exercise for students health and fitness
- Space to host sports events for local schools
- Specific sports training for students and the community including football, volley ball and rugby
- Dog agility classes for the community
- Community facility including birthday party hire
- Specialist competition standard horse arena

THE NEED

It is difficult for students working on the farm and with the animals all year round in diverse weather conditions. An indoor space will provide a sheltered and warm environment for students to gain a range of work and independence skills. The indoor space will also provide greater opportunities for students to take part in physical activities to keep them healthy and engaged.

Additionally, the facility will offer opportunities for students to gain essential life skills to support their independent, for example, an equine environment where students care for horses offers opportunities to apply maths skills through weighing and measuring feed. Learning to care for animals can support the understanding of self-care, for example, learning to wash a horse mane encourages students to become independent in their own hair washing, whilst grooming leads to learning about personal care.

The new facility will provide a safe, dry space for the students to learn all year round. The indoor facility would enable us to provide a hoist so that students or individuals in wheelchairs can ride and take part in sports too, this simply is not possible with our current outdoor arena. This much-needed facility will open vocational opportunities and further qualifications for our students to enhance their learning and improve their employability skills. Without this facility, opportunities to maximise outcomes for young people are limited.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The facility will be purpose built to meet the needs of our students but also provide a facility for the local community. The build itself will be 21m x 63m and have a silica sand floor with all the necessary equipment to enable the arena to be used both by our students and the wider community.

We aim to install a mobile hoist to improve accessibility for individuals in wheelchairs or with limited lower body movement. The facility will also have accessible toilet facilities and a kitchenette so that the arena can be leased independently from the college site. There will be a viewing area and purpose built classroom, giving additional teaching space to offer places for the growing numbers of young people with learning disabilities in the area.

BENEFICIARIES

Children and young people with learning disabilities as well as the community.

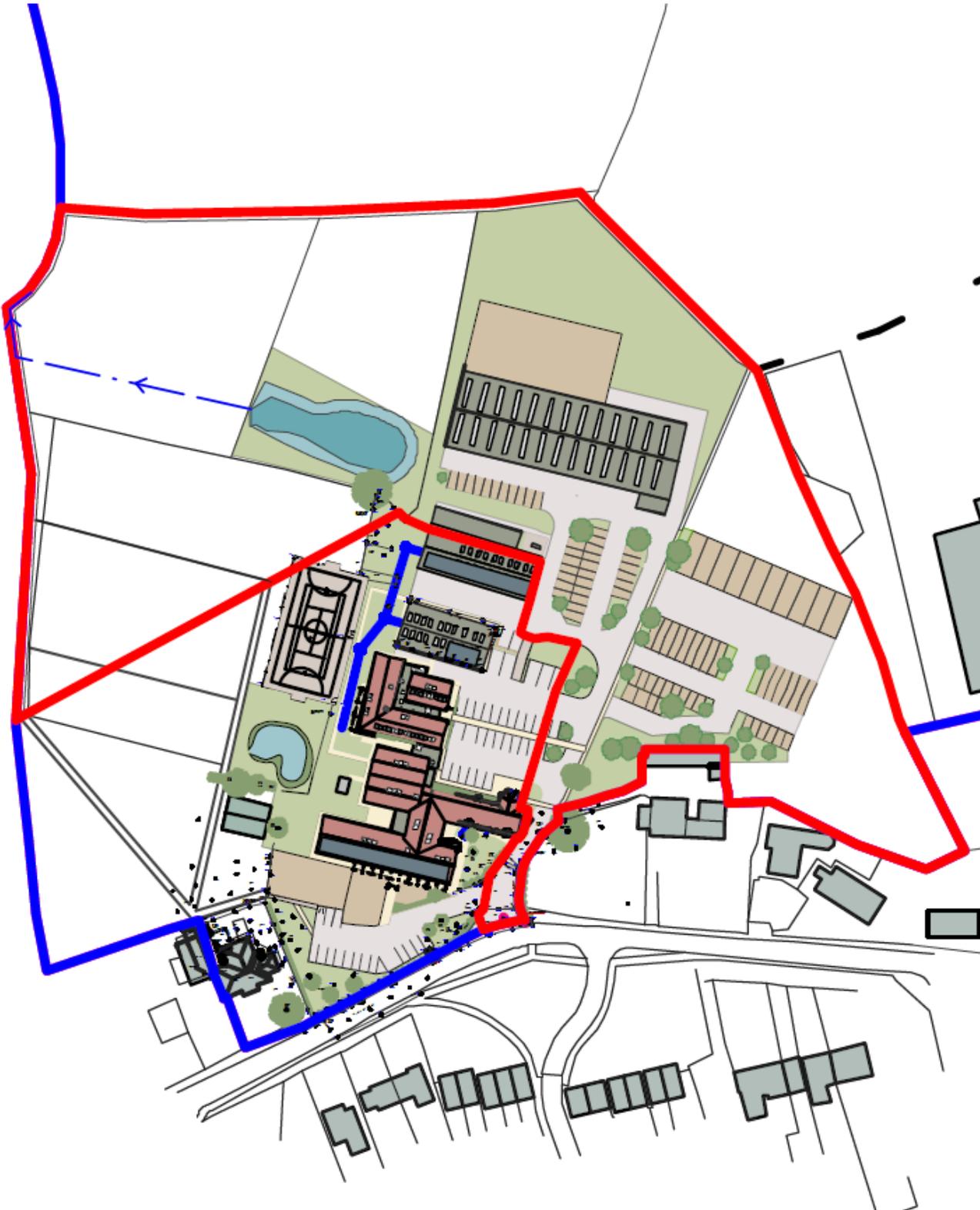
MILESTONES

- Pre-planning approved - November 2016
- Hetreed Ross Architects - drawing plans for submission for full planning - February 2017
- Planning approved – October 2018
- Fundraising for the project - ongoing
- Indoor Equestrian Arena build – ambitions to build in 2020

APPROVED PLANS



APPROVED PLANS



OUTCOMES

We aim to deliver the project in phases:

- Phase 1 – erect main arena and surface
- Phase 2 – relocate outdoor arena
- Phase 3 – create additional parking to enable large equestrian vehicles to access the facility
- Phase 4 – finalise with relocation of stables to the new arena with storage

The new facility will support the growing college enabling students to access indoor sports and horse/animal care as well as community access. This will add value to the lives of the students and their families, increasing their employability skills by providing a safe real life working environment for them. It will add a practical venue for the community to hire which will be affordable and accredited to the Association for British Riding Schools which will provide sustainability for the arena for the future. The arena will have multi-use, utilised by many groups and individuals, we believe that this new facility would be an asset to the community with access to a year-round indoor inclusive sports facility.

USAGE

This facility will support all students that attend Fairfield Farm College as well as children and young people in Wiltshire and surrounding areas that access the facilities during evenings and holiday periods. The arena will be utilised 7 days a week, during daytime and evening, by both the college and community groups. We currently have interest from Dog Agility groups and are able to fill the facility for four evenings per week. Riding for the Disabled would be able to access the arena with their own horses and volunteers on weekends. Sports groups including football, rugby and cricket clubs have all expressed interest in accessing an indoor facility. The Indoor Equestrian Centre would also bring the community into the college to use the facility and encourage the sustainability of the project.

We conducted research locally to determine the demand for the facility. The survey gives a good indication of community involvement, this would mostly be for horse riding and dog agility by individuals or groups as well as community sports teams. With the majority of hire being for 1-2 hours at a time. The new facility would offer further parking to accommodate the demand evidenced in the survey, with up to 30 parking spaces on site for cars/horse boxes.

Fairfield Farm College is well placed to ensure the sustainability of this project, we already have booking systems in place for the conference and sports facilities which we lease, catering facilities through our onsite café, marketing manager, charity fundraising manager, an onsite maintenance team and of course the students who can contribute through work based learning to help with the preparation of the horses and the arena for daily sessions, events and hire.

This usage estimate does not include other community groups or individuals that may want to hire our facility outside of those who have already expressed a commitment, so there is further potential to increase the community use.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

The main role of the board of trustees is to govern the charity while the senior leadership team carry out the day-to-day operation of the charity. The trustees monitor the progress the charity is making towards achieving its objectives and targets, most importantly the outcomes of projects such as this one and the impact on young people at Fairfield Farm College.

Once the arena has been built, the maintenance costs will be low, selling advertising space and arena hire would cover the daily running costs. The surfacing that we are going to use should last up to 5-years before it needs replacing.

We will know that we have achieved our goal once the arena is fully utilised by community groups and our growing cohort of students are gaining the skills and qualifications they need to access employment and voluntary work opportunities in their community areas.

BUDGET

The project costs are fluid with current estimate of £313,000.

We have currently raised £130,500 as of September 2020, so we will continue to fundraise the remaining £182,500.

We have sourced quotes from 3 indoor arena contractors. At this stage, we have approached one organisation that can undertake the full works including the building and the specific surfacing for the arena. Once we have raised £150,000 we will go out to tender to confirm a contractor.

Following many years of fundraising, we have secured 41% of the project costs to-date, therefore 59% of the project cost will come from grants and fundraising.

If we are not successful in securing funding for this project then this would greatly reduce the opportunities that we can offer our students, we currently have a small outdoor arena and multi-use sports pitch which can only be utilised in fair weather. This arena is currently only used by students and the new facility will allow us to bring the community into Fairfield Farm College and help us to reach more disadvantaged communities locally.