

Bowls is a game that can be played by almost anybody aged from 10 to 100, it can be very competitive yet is a very social sport.

Bowls is a very inclusive sport and Calne Bowls Club has built up a collection of aids to help less abled bowlers these include bowling arms and a wheelchair designed to be used on a bowls green, Any member of the community is welcome here and we have a variety of equipment that can be used to enable anybody to get them started in the game without charge.

We host a coffee and bowling morning at the club every Thursday for Kingston House care home where they are able take advantage of some of these facilities.

We are the home bowls green for the Wiltshire Masonic Bowls Association

We have many members that are still playing bowls in their eighties and nineties some of these have limited mobility but still enjoy playing bowls and socialising with others nearly every week of the season.

However our toilet and clubhouse facilities need to be improved to remove any steps and trip hazards and allow correct wheelchair access for the safety of our members and visitors to the club.

We are keen to be involved with the community and in recent years we have hosted bowls afternoons for a local scout group on numerous occasions, as well as a local WI, a Reading group as well as various local businesses

In May this year we hosted a twinning visit to Calne from Eningen our German twin town so that we could allow the group to have a fun afternoon playing bowls and experience a game that is not seen in Germany.

In recent years and in response to an absence of stalls suitable for children we have supported Duck-day in Calne with a hook-a-duck stall with each child winning at least one prize every time.

We also also have a “gift-bag” tombola stall during the Lantern festival every year.

All of these events allow club members to share that the Bowls club is welcoming for anybody and supporting the local community.

Calne bowls club membership has grown by 50% in the last three years. We now have over 90 members with many playing in league and county matches at all levels.

This increase in membership has created a need to enter more teams into the Bowls leagues. However we are limited to the number of teams we can enter as we are unable to fit more than 3 tables of 8 players in the current clubhouse. This means for larger events where we would need up to 7 tables of 8 players we would need to find additional seating outdoors in all weathers.

The larger clubhouse would mean that we could be able to host more events with up to 56 players and their guests, this would also allow us to host county and national matches that would help raise our profile and allow us to benefit from income raised by rink fees, BBQ food and beverage sales.

We have a thriving social side to our bowls club and having a larger club house would enable us to hold frequent events for members to enjoy such as quizzes, Bingo and race nights, Keeping a bowls green in order though out the year is very expensive and these events raise essential funds to help keep the club thriving.

Planning permission PL/2022/04846 was granted in 2023 to demolish the existing clubhouse and build a new structure shown here. However estimates from three builders indicate the cost would be substantially more than the currently available funds held by the club.

After looking at all funding and grant options currently available we have decided this option is not possible.

After reviewing options we would now like to proceed with a much lower cost remodelling of the existing clubhouse, adding a new toilet block and a new addition connecting to the existing changing rooms.

We have already obtained permission from Calne Town Council to build this as a new lease was necessary to accommodate this newer structure.

The town council agreed to allow us to extend on a DDA parking and a standard parking space in the car park that they own as they agree that our club will benefit from this work. There are three other DDA spaces with DDA Access in the Car park.

The site falls under flood zone 1 and proposed works will not affect the flooding nor the ground water emergence.

Thank you for your consideration of this application

Steve McColl
Chairman
Calne Bowls Club

19 August 2026