

GUIDELINES FOR GAA CLUBS/UNITS UNDERTAKING DEVELOPMENT WORK DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The Governments roadmap for reopening society and business outlines that from May 18th that we can “*return to outdoor work*”. This implies that construction and pitch development work can possibly be undertaken by our Clubs. It is acknowledged, that whilst the Association has stated that GAA facilities would remain closed for the time being, that Club Officers are anxious to use this time to undertake necessary work on facilities which will improve them and make them better for our members.

In deciding on whether to start any the following guidelines should be adhered to:

(1) Financing of development works

Where developments and enhancements of facilities can be undertaken without recourse to borrowings, this is an ideal opportunity to undertake these works. However. Clubs should factor into their decision making that there may be very limited further income this year before using up cash balances on capital works or maintenance. Clubs should be absolutely sure they have enough funding to see them through to 2021 before spending now.

Where borrowings are required Clubs are advised not to enter debt at the present time when the fundraising ability of our Clubs are reduced due to the Public Health restrictions. The current crisis has given rise to a very difficult financial situation for our units, and indeed the wider economy, whilst we are all anxious to develop our facilities, we should take a prudent approach in this regard.

It should be noted that loans already approved from the GAA Development Fund will remain in place until things return to normal.

Clubs should advise the Department of Sport (or other funders) where grants have been allocated that the project is being delayed due to the current restrictions.

Clubs are advised that there will be no capital development grants available in 2020 but works undertaken will be considered for grant aid in future years.

(2) Insurance

As per the terms and conditions of the GAA Insurance policy all construction activities must be notified and agreed in advance with GAA Insurance Department or GAA Insurance Brokers Marsh Ireland. Failure to notify development works in advance will result in the development being uninsured when completed meaning GAA Property & Liability Insurance will not extend to development when completed.

The requirements of The Association in relation to contractors undertaking construction work are as follows:

- Contractor to provide evidence of Public Liability insurance with a minimum limit of €6.5 Million
- Contractor to evidence of Employers Liability Insurance (if applicable) with a minimum limit of €13 Million
- Contractor to Provide evidence of Contractors All Risk Cover in place
- The limit of insurance on the Contractors All Risks policy must be equal or greater to that of the contract/ project.
- GAA club must be noted as Joint Insured in Contractors All Risk policy and are specifically indemnified (along with The Association) under the Contractors Liability Policy.
- A copy of the contract to be provided to the GAA Risk & Insurance Manager/Marsh Ire-land in advance of any works taking place
- Contractor must operate the site in full compliance with Construction Industry SOP for Covid-19 return to work and have completed a Covid-19 risk assessment.

(3) Health & Safety

All developments and enhancements of Club facilities must adhere to current Health, Safety and Welfare legislation, must comply with all relevant medical advice in relation to the safe operation of workplaces, take account of construction industry guidelines (i.e. Construction Industry Federation – *C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures and Construction Employers Federation NI guidance*) adhere to all relevant Covid-19 specific legislation including social distancing measures.