

Proposal to Change Venue.

After feedback from a number of members regarding the current venue for the Friends, Darlington Cricket Club, we have found that members are reporting the following issues:

- Car parking on the site can be very limited during the summer months when the club is holding cricket practice.
- Noise from other events and from the bar area has disturbed recent meetings and those at the back find it very difficult to hear.
- Space is limited and our number has grown and is likely to continue to grow as we move closer to 2025.
- Acoustics in the long narrow room can be difficult.

The proposals:

Several proposals have been put forward:

1. To move the meetings to another town centre venue, with close access to parking and a bar with more space for membership. The only venue that seems to fit this brief is the Dolphin Centre. We have negotiated an initial rate of £10 per hour to use the central hall along with the centre's projection equipment. This price will be reviewed depending on the takings in the bar and café from refreshments and represents a substantial discount on the usual hire rate for the venue. The big risk here is increasing cost later on. Parking is available in the multistorey car park behind the venue and there are a limited number of spaces available in the marketplace. The multistorey car park is also available for use when we're at the cricket club and the difference for walking is a matter of a few hundred meters closer.
2. To stay at the cricket club and rearrange the room. We would move the tables and screen closer to the end of the room to increase the space available and move members away from the doors. We would need volunteers to help rearrange the room before and to put it back after the meeting. This would increase space for about 10-20 more attendees and help with intelligibility. The groundsman has informed Ross Chishom that additional parking is available on site alongside the pitch accessed by following the roads either side of the clubhouse and the multistorey carpark which is free after 6pm is only a couple of minutes' walk from the venue.
3. To look at venues further out from the town centre to widen our choice. Venues suggested include, the Railway Athletic club on Brinkburn Road and several of the working men's clubs in the area. These are further away from public transport hubs but out of town sites may have some additional parking.

We are asking the members at this meeting for direction of which options they would like us to pursue and a discussion on what the impact would be on the membership?