

National Development Strategy

Case Study - Club Development Plan

Club Development Plans Project Derbyshire County

Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association has had a Club Development fund for many years. It's financed from County Club fees and has raised around £2,500 annually with Clubs able to make applications back to the County to help them finance development projects in the year. Despite the annual tax on clubs, requests for funding over the years have been sparse, with rules for requests being hidden away in the back of the County Handbook. With the National Development Strategy launch early in 2025, County Officials made a concerted effort to promote the fund during 2025 and a small number of Club and Area projects were supported with learner bowls, Bowls Buddies kits and Open Day advertising being purchased. However costs was still a surplus of raised funds.



With extra funds being available in 2026 due to BCGBA development rebates, over £4,000 has been earmarked for Development Fund spending. The County has also relaxed its rules on what will be fundable following a series of County Roadshow consultations with Clubs at the end of the 2025 season.

The County will however, insist on any funding support being accompanied by an approved 'Club Development Plan' as recommended by the BCGBA National Development Strategy. To help Clubs understand the benefits of a 'Club Development Plan' the County has arranged a series of Area Workshops, all taking place in February 2026, with 110 Derbyshire Club receiving an invite.

So, what have the workshops involved?

- Initially they have allowed County Officials to re-explain the financial elements of the County Fund and how that worked in 2025 with the £1.00 Player per Club National Fee, while also allowing all to understand the changes and opportunity for 2026.
- They have raised the profile of the Derbyshire Development Fund and how it can help clubs with their objectives and ideas as well as highlighting the timeframes for applications.
- They have introduced Club Development Plans and how they can help clubs identify their key issues, how to prioritise them, how to think creatively about resolutions via SWOT Analysis and SMART objectives.
- Perhaps they have been most beneficial by Attendees sharing development experiences, understanding common issues as well as challenges specific to individual Clubs. It's very evident that our Clubs are all at very different stages of their development path, and sharing past experience in this format is priceless.



All Attendees have left with:

- An initial thought on their own Clubs strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats to take back to their Club.
- An understanding of what other clubs have done to solve issues that may be relevant to them now or in the future,
- A suite of templates and examples to help them complete 'Club Development Plans' and a mechanism for assessing what has or hasn't been successful during 2026.

Let's hope the result means that Derbyshire County fulfil more Development Applications in 2026 for their Clubs.

National Development Strategy Want more details of this case study?

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