



# BIG BUILD FAQ

**Q1**

**Why should members from around Scotland support the Big Build, and what benefits will it offer to all members, including those who may not directly use the Young Farmer Centre?**

This question relates to another frequently asked question: What benefits do members receive for their membership fees?

Primarily, staff costs – as with most businesses and charities, the largest overhead is staff expenses. SAYFC employs a team and has volunteers who provide a framework and deliver services in the following areas:

- SAYFC strategy
- Competitions & Events
- Safeguarding
- Support
- Governance
- Engagement with external stakeholders
- Communications

The old saying among young farmers, "the more you put in, the more you get out," is pertinent when considering the impact of membership fees. As individuals progress within the young farmers' organization, their exposure to activities across District, Regional, and National levels enhances their understanding of the necessity of membership fees. The appreciation of why a new build would benefit the membership is similar.

Regarding the Big Build project, it can be challenging to explain to a new 14-year-old member the benefits of constructing a building located miles away. They may not even be aware that SAYFC has a dedicated staff team or headquarters.

SAYFC is establishing a home for young farmers—something the current generation lacks. The building's condition previously prevented practical use for events, and the staff team relocated in May 2023.

We are creating a year-round home that brings together staff, office bearers, and members. This facility will serve as a home for the Royal Highland Show. The 2025 Royal Highland Show will be

notably different for SAYFC, with some activities reduced and others reliant on external organizations for space and resources.

SAYFC staff will have a new home, more time will be spent collaboratively in the new office, which will also accommodate other rural charities.

Finally, we are establishing an asset for the Association and a repository for SAYFC history. While younger members may not fully appreciate this aspect, supporters and alumni are likely to be more engaged.

**Q2**

**Will members get priority on booking spaces in the building, and will it be free?**

Bookings would simply be taken on a first come basis. The cost of the booking would depend on the purpose of the meeting and any costs incurred by SAYFC to host the meeting.

**Q3**

**Why can't we just have a tent every year at the Highland show?**

We could but we'd still need to find a home for staff plus storage. The show is going to be difficult to juggle this year not having the centre, we have no room for receptions in the marquee which we need to engage with sponsors, supporters and our alumni. Logistics around the Stockmanship programme have been challenging and only with the support of RHASS have we been able to find alternative spaces to make sure everything can go ahead.

There are substantial costs having a marquee and there are aspects such as security which we have never had to think about as we've always just locked the door behind us at night. On example is the cost of having security in the marquee overnight from the Sunday to Sunday is approximately £2,000, that's £50,000 over 25 years.

It is a substantial outlay for a marquee which would meet all our needs, then multiply by 25 years.

**Q4**

**What events will the main hall space be used for out with the highland show?**

SAYFC will hold National and Regional events in the events space. Such as meetings, office bearer training, Agri panel nights, National Junior Speechmaking and Foursomes.

The [events space](#) will also be available to hire for external organisations.

**Q5**

**What happens if the highland show goes bust or they sell off the ground. What happens if they relocate the show?**

SAYFC have factored this into the new ground lease between SAYFC and RHASS to ensure we are protected if these situations arise.

**Q6**

**Why can't the building be renovated?**

The cost of this is more than the demolition and rebuild, in early 2024 this was estimated at £1.9 million! See extract from [feasibility study](#) which was completed in early 2024.

*"Refurbishing the existing facilities is the least flexible. approach due to the constraints imposed by the existing building. The costs involved in working with an existing building are quite high, particularly in this case where substantial refurbishment and upgrading would be required to achieve current standards. The costs for building refurbishment including the anticipated requirements for re-insulating, renewables, general future-proofing as well as replacement and refurbishment of M&E systems and upgrading of sanitary provision".*

**Q7**

**Why is it costing 1 million pounds?**

SAYFC got three quotes for the project, all came out at similar costs. The demolition alone is approx. £150k due to the asbestos which is to be removed.

**Q8**

**Where is the £1 million coming from?**

SAYFC will fund the project via the following

- Corporate donations
- Alumni donations
- Club / District donations
- Grant funding
- Fundraising events

**Q9****Is there going to be staff offices in the building?**

Yes, SAYFC staff will be based in the new building. SAYFC are also in discussion with other rural charities to also join us in the space to create a [rural charity hub](#).

**Q10****Who is the building contractor?**

Demolition of old YF Centre – Dem Master

Construction of new YF Centre – Nairn Construction

**Q11****Are you going to generate revenue from the building by renting it out?**

Yes, we hope to generate a small income annually for the building to help cover overheads.

**Q12****When will construction be complete?**

If all goes to plan the new build should be complete for the 2026 Royal Highland Show.

**Q13****How can I donate money to the Big Build project?**

[Donations](#) can be made during the Royal Highland Show, via the online donation platform or simply by contacting [penny@sayfc.org](mailto:penny@sayfc.org) who can provide details of the SAYFC Big Build Bank Account to transfer funds. An invoice can also be raised if required.

**Q14****Will there be a supporters/donors wall?**

Yes, tiers for individual supporters are listed on our [Donate](#) page, there is a separate tier structure for Clubs / Districts.

**Q15**

**If people want to pay on the day, how do they go about it? Is there a way that we can get a note of what they want to give and their names ?**

At the Royal Highland Show there will be different options to pay.

- There will be card machines
- Details can be given to allow bank transfers
- We can create an invoice for payment later

This can be done at either the Young Farmers marquee on avenue 7 or the Big Build marquee which will be outside the Young Farmers Centre. Forms will be available to complete to ensure we record the correct details for the donors' wall and if gift aid can be claimed.

**Q16**

**What is the current fundraising total? How far is there until target?**

We have a long way to go, for up-to-date progress go to our fundraising platform <https://sayfc.enthuse.com/profile> . If you would like to [donate](#) contact [penny@sayfc.org](mailto:penny@sayfc.org) as although the platform is great for fundraising events like the "Run Chair Run" Challenge it charges commission on each payment.

**Q17**

**How will the layout of the new centre impact Royal Highland Show competitions in the future?**

It will be very similar to what we are used to. [The hall](#) is slightly smaller but there should be more than enough space for arts & crafts, photography etc. The mezzanine level will be a space for receptions and hospitality, including the Saturday night prize winners receptions which isn't taking place in 2025. For the Stockmanship Programme we won't have enough space to accommodate six private rooms for reason giving – but the old Young Farmers Centre didn't either, we will continue to work with the Royal Highland Show and use spaces in the Highland Hall.

**Q18**

**Will the centre be able to be rented out to bring in income to the Association?**

Yes, SAYFC hope to generate an income from the events space as well as the office hub.

**Q19**

**Can people donate gradually on a monthly basis and will the total still count towards the individual supporter package?**

Definitely, we are more than happy to do what works for those generously donating.

**Q20**

**Is it all going to happen in one phase rather than multiple phases like the building of the previous centre?**

One phase

**Q21**

**Will some of the partitions in the office space be flexible to create smaller and larger meeting rooms as required?**

Plans for the building below, there will be a fixed office space with two smaller offices and a meeting room. Both the events space and the mezzanine can be used for larger meetings.

**Q22**

**Can Clubs use the building to host meetings?**

Yes

**Q23**

**Will the centre be able to be rented out to bring in income to the Association?**

**When will Clubs be able to use the new facilities and what can they hold within the facilities?**

The new centre will be available on request; there will be no restrictions on when it is available. However, because of its location within the showground, in some instances particularly over at the weekend there may be a fee charged by the Royal Highland Centre for the gate to be manned.

The centre will be available for meetings and other events, with different spaces available we will have some flexibility. The capacity maximum capacity of the hall is 200.