

BIG BUILD Q & A

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.... and much much more

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 home for SAYFC history. While younger members may not fully appreciate this aspect, supporters and alumni are likely to be more engaged.

Q2

Can Clubs use the building to host meetings? Will members get priority on booking spaces in the building, and will it be free? When will Clubs be able to use the new facilities and what can they hold within the facilities?

Yes, Clubs/ Districts can use the building for meetings and events. The cost of the booking would depend on the purpose of the meeting and any costs incurred by SAYFC to host the meeting. 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.

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

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 e 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

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.

Q5

Will the centre be able to be rented out to generate an income for SAYFC? What events will the main hall space be used for out with the Royal Highland Show?

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

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.

Q6

What happens if RHASS 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.

Q7

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".

Q8

Why is it costing 1 million pounds? Where is the £1 million coming from?

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. The project will be funded by 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

When will construction be complete?

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

Q12

How can I donate money to the Big Build project?

[Donations](#) can be made via the online donation platform or simply by contacting 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.

Q13

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.

Q14

What is the current fundraising total?

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 as although the platform is great for fundraising events like the "Run Chair Run" Challenge it charges commission on each payment.