



## **Safe Standing: Members' Reaction**

**To help give the fans an idea of what safe standing could look like at Kingsford Stadium, we had a stadium designer, Mateusz Cegielski from mStadia.net, produce some example images for us. View them on our website, [donssupporterstogether.com](http://donssupporterstogether.com)**

**The example images show safe standing in two parts of the stadium: a full corner, which we estimate would hold approximately 600 supporters; and the rear half of an end behind a goal, which we estimate would hold approximately 1,700 supporters.**

**We circulated the images to our members and received a healthy response, with plenty offering their views:**

"If there was the demand my preferred option would be a red wall behind a goal from top to bottom. Failing that a corner to avoid issues with line of sight.

"I do like the idea of the rear setup a being used but my concern about that would be it may lose some of the atmosphere as it's spread over a wider area and the mix between those wishing to sing and not sing may be affected.

"I think the demand for the standing area will be huge regardless of price."

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"Personally, I would like an end behind the goals, but a corner and upper section behind goals would be acceptable. As for away end – no."

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"I would put a whole end behind the goals as safe standing and if it turned out we needed more could easily extend to a corner. Definitely not in the away end though!"

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"In my opinion we should have the red wall as quite a few of the South Stand reds stand all the time, usually the section close to the away fans but also in Y section.

"I do like the idea of the curve that you show in the design photographs but probably the red wall does it for me.

"I am 60 and I along with my brother in law and other family members we will be wanting in the standing area.

"Our away support as you know sing all the time so it's just getting that commitment for home games."

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"My personal preference would be the second option with safe standing being a feature of the away section too.

"The reason for this being that with an average attendance of 13,500 (bums on seats rather than 'total tickets sold') there will always be a considerable number of empty seats/standing places. So, surely for big sell out games (Celtic/Rangers/Europa League) it would be beneficial for the vocal section of the ground to

be as large as possible and the demand for this section would surely be at its greatest for high profile fixtures."

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"Needs to be an entire section all the way from front to back, can't see the club using an entire behind the goals section, to many Richard Donald Lower fans looking for seat there, how about 3,500 starting from next to the away fans coming around up to the half way line on one side, South Stand- style, who else would you have next to away fans"

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"Either option would be thumbs up from me, but a No to the away end, don't want to encourage a better atmosphere in the away end."

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"I'd be all for a safe standing area, but not because I want to stand. I have arthritic knees and at away games and finals have suffered by having to stand because the people in front of me are standing. I can't be any more help in gauging demand, but I wholeheartedly support the notion"

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"I think we really need to find out what the interest is in standing sections from existing season ticket holders as they are the ones most likely to fill any such areas. Canvassing every supporter, including those who don't regularly attend games, will not provide an accurate picture of demand for it. Perhaps we can start by estimating how many fans currently stand at games just now? It might not be too scientific but you could essentially use photos of the South Stand at home games and make some calculated guesses how many fans are currently standing for the game. Most in section Y, S and T in the South Stand all the time.

"From my own experience of being in a corner of a stadium, typically away games, the views there are poor and the fans have less impact on the match experience so I think that should be ruled out. If we could fill an entire end behind the goal that would be absolutely brilliant! My feeling is it would be a big ask to find 3,500 supporters keen for that every week. Would the stadium design allow for standing in the lower section of the stand and seating towards the back? The demand would likely be that way round rather than standing at the back."

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"I would like to stand at the football and if the numbers existed I'd like to see a whole stand behind the goal allocated as safe standing.

"From what I read on social media there is an appetite for standing and a keenness to improve the atmosphere at home games. I believe a sizeable standing section would be the way forward."

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"My views are that I think we should have an entire section behind the goals for safe standing. As I find sitting does not get the fans involved in the game. I go to pretty much the away games and find the atmosphere a lot better.

"As for the away section there is two sides you can look at this: make it sitting so they find it hard to get an atmosphere going but also might dampen the atmosphere within the stadium; or if you make this sitting you will occur damaged seats from the minority of away supporters."

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"I am all for safe standing, given that section S and section Y in the South Stand is more or less standing that would give an indication of the number that would be required - probably a corner and the rear of behind a goal would be enough. Don't really care about the away fans experience therefore all seated would be perfect to keep them quiet!"

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"I think that initially a full corner of 600 spaces would be ideal for a trial run. It would be then easier to open up further spaces to the rear half of a stand if demand was there.

"Personally, I have grown up with seating at Pittodrie through the late 70s and onward and I would be happy to remain seated in the new stadium."

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"Think it would be better to have all standing area together. Probably cheaper too.

"Don't think you should have the standing section in a tier above the sitting section. More likely to be louder fans in the standing section and most people who chose to sit at a match probably don't want the shouting / singing coming straight down on top of them."

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"I think that it would be the best way to do it in honesty, Celtic Park utilise the corner well to start songs and create atmosphere and the rear half behind the goals can join in and spread the atmosphere further (in theory).

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"Additionally, it fits demand to a T, and if more people became interested the front half could always be converted."

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"I am in support of standing at the football. I think 2,300 is enough, but also like the idea of the area behind the goal being a standing area.

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"Anything to improve atmosphere is also a plus so I'm more than happy for away fans to have access to a standing area too."

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"I personally think a red wall is a fantastic idea. We need to get this stadium up and running correctly from the offset. I think demand will be high so 3.5k should cater for everyone. We don't want to be faced with the dilemma that not enough was fitted and the club saying we can't install additional for financial reasons or whatever."

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"Definitely agree this would hugely improve the atmosphere at home games. Take Celtic as an example. The most mundane of games still has an atmosphere predominantly down to the safe standing area."

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"Love the idea of having a full end behind the goal for standing, however this of course would need fans there every week and not just for the 'big' games. If not, enough fans would commit to a full season standing behind the goals then a small section in a corner (preferably next to away fans to generate atmosphere) could hopefully work pretty well."

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"I am all for the choice of safe standing. I believe that 2,300 is enough as this gives the choice of fans being seated behind the goal.

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"I think there should be a small safe standing area for away fans also - maybe space for 1,000?"

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"I would tend to favour the option of having a full end behind a goal as the safe standing area. If the resultant 3,500 is considered to be too much, I would suggest having the front half of a section behind one goal with the back half of that area stepped up by around 0.5 metres to compensate in terms of view of the park.

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"My personal experience of a safe standing area at Hoffenheim in Germany leads me to think that as close as possible to the playing surface behind a goal is the best option for this.

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"The other question I have is why it is the case that there is one seat lost for every safe standing place? At Hoffenheim, the capacity of the safe standing area is double the number of seats taken out of use by this area. When they have UEFA governed games and bring the seats into use they lose capacity equivalent to 50% of the safe standing capacity."

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"Myself and son would prefer a whole end behind the goal. I am sure when you look at South Stand near away end, along with back rows and section Y together with the louder members of Merckland supporters in a few years' time you could fill the end.

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"Obviously, responses would determine.

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"I would not like to be in a corner personally."

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"Personally, my son, father in law and myself would be standing."

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"I remain firmly in the camp that there needs to be such an area at the new stadium.

"I don't have specific preference on the style and type at this stage as I know there are suitable solutions. It's only when it comes down to a direct choice that I think a preference would be called for."

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"A figure of 2,300 would be adequate. If it proves to be popular then there should be an option to extend the rail seating in the future.

"I feel strongly that the away end should not have rail seating.

"The amount of seats allocated to away fans should be less than the current amount at Pittodrie. Both Hibs and Hearts have reduced our away allocation this season so we should do the same at Kingsford, ideally to around 1,500-1,800. The visiting support should also be kept in the stadium after the full-time until the home support shuttle buses have departed.

"Have the club indicated that there will be a beer tent in the fan zone?

"Will the supporters bar and the red cafe be open after matches?"

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"Don't know what everyone else thinks but as a fan in his twenties I often here about the Beach End terracing and the atmosphere that created. The idea of a Red Wall is awe-inspiring to myself, provided folk would fill it every week and they were allowed to be fans, sing songs without over enthusiastic stewards interfering. I know the whole move to Kingsford has split opinion but from my personal point of view this is one aspect I feel could really boost the atmosphere at home games."

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"My preference would be for a standing area to be behind one of the goals and not be stuck at the back of the stand. It should be from the pitch level upwards for maximum effect.

"Also great to hear in your other email on the meeting with Rob Wicks and Scott Gormal that the club are listening to supporters for the final design of the stadium. Whatever the design, the stadium must have steep sides akin to Tynecastle and be fully enclosed at the corners like the last photo in the email below (not like Tynecastle or Easter Road)."

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"I'd say 1,700 standing spaces would be about the right figure. If you think about the largest crowds we take to away games it's about a core of 2000 or so I think, not all of whom would like to stand.

3,500 seems way too many, but maybe I'm just being pessimistic about crowds. Also, in terms of location I'd say placing the standing section immediately behind the goal puts you at a disadvantage for a home game. You want that sort of thing (probably) generating the most noise to be about the middle of the ground so that the sound resonates rather than dissipates.

"If you think about the last few games you've been at where the majority of the opposition fans are behind the goal you don't usually hear them very much during the game apart from the slight flurry of noise after the odd goal (hopefully a thing of the past with a few new defensive signings ... and maybe a proper left back).

"The away end should not have any standing bits and they should always be told repeatedly to sit-down, why give the away team any advantage."

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"My fear is we'll do too much to pander to the NIMBY's regarding the new stadium. I want steep stands like Tynecastle. Doubt we'll get it."