

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Bath Recreation Ground Trust Board</b>	
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>14 March 2013</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:</b>
		<b>E 2531</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>The Recreation Ground Bath Update on General Management Issues</b>	
<b>WARD:</b>	<b>Abbey</b>	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
<b>Appendix 1 – Trust’s Objection to Town &amp; Village Green Application</b>		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the general management issues at the Recreation Ground.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Trust Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Any financial implications are contained within the content of the report.

## **4 THE REPORT**

### **4.1. Draft Scheme:**

The Charity Commission published a draft Scheme for the Recreation Ground on 30 November 2012. The Scheme would enable the Trust to proceed with its proposal for the future of the Rec. To accompany the draft Scheme, the Trust published an explanatory booklet which gave the background to the matter and set out the details of the Trust’s proposal.

The draft Scheme and the booklet were publicised in the press at the start of the publication period and at several times during the period.

The booklet was made available throughout Bath and North East Somerset, with copies prominently displayed at seven libraries, four leisure centres, two one-stop shops and the Guildhall. The booklet, together with questions and answers and other relevant information, was published on the Trusts's website during the publication period. The Chairman of the Trustees held an open house surgery in the Bath One Stop Shop on 19 December.

The publication period closed on 31 December. The Charity Commission received 1868 representations on the Scheme. Of these, 1624 (87%) were in support and 244 (13%) objected to it. This response was very similar to that of the 2011 consultation, and is regarded as confirming that earlier exercise.

Since there were a number of objections, the draft Scheme has been referred to the Commission's Decision Review procedure. It is understood that this will be completed during April 2013.

#### **4.2. Tree Works:**

Routine works to the trees alongside the river were carried out in the week commencing 14 January. Two replacement birch trees were planted. Further pruning works to the trees on the boundary with the Bowling Club are planned to take place before the commencement of the Croquet and Tennis seasons. Some unauthorised pruning to the conifers adjacent to the turnstiles has taken place, resulting in the need to plant some laurel bushes. The future tree inspection and maintenance programme is dealt with in the repairs and maintenance report elsewhere in this agenda.

#### **4.3. Town or Village Green Application:**

The Trust has lodged an objection to an application submitted to the Council as Registering Authority (appendix 1). It is the view of the trustees that town green status would severely limit the Trust's ability to manage its land in a way that fulfils its objectives.

#### **4.4. General Maintenance:**

Some minor works have recently been undertaken, such as the removal of old defunct sheds, the clearance of old furniture from the Cricket Pavilion and the repair of fencing panels. The repairs and maintenance report deals with recent surveys carried out and the programme of works needed to bring the Trust's assets into a good state of repair.

#### **4.5. Grounds Maintenance:**

Despite the exceptionally bad winter weather, the ground is holding up relatively well. There have been issues which have needed to be addressed, namely;

- damage to the corner of one of the lacrosse pitches,
- small areas of subsidence in car park area, and
- damage caused to the outfield last year. Repairs have commenced but won't be completed until after the Bath Half Marathon.

## 5. RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 The report author and Trust Board Members have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

## 6. EQUALITIES

6.1. Actions taken on behalf of the Trust take regard to equalities issues and legislation.

## 7. RATIONALE

7.1. The report aims to update the Board on general management issues at the recreation Ground.

## 8. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1. Not applicable.

## 9. CONSULTATION

9.1. Advice and input has been sought from the Officers supporting the Trust within the Open Spaces, Finance and Property Services Sections of Bath and North East Somerset Council.

## 10. ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

10.1. They are contained within the report.

## 11. ADVICE SOUGHT

11.1. The Council's Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer have been notified of this report and have had the opportunity to input to it.

<b>Contact person</b>	Andrew Pate, Trust Board Advisor – 01225 477300 or Margaret Masling Administrator to the Trust– 01225 477005
<b>Sponsoring Trustee</b>	<i>Councillor David Dixon</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<a href="#">26th November 2012 Report to Board of Trustees to the Recreation Ground &amp; Minute</a> Town & Village Green Application Notice and Plan
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	