

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Alice Park Trust Sub Committee	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	30 October 2017	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	ORGANISED FOOTBALL USE OF THE PARK - UPDATE	
WARD:	Lambridge	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Agreement was given to the trial of youth football within the park around September 2016. This has been a success but despite moving the football use around the park (to spread the wear), the grass became sparse and rutted in places by the end of football season (May 2017).
- 1.2 The current sward is simply an un-improved mix of annual meadow grass with some rye grass which is not particularly durable and on-going football use will compound the issue (sparsity) which may prevent subsequent summer events from occurring if the situation worsens.
- 1.3 This report considers the actions necessary to reduce this impact next year and to potentially start recovering costs of reinstatement.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To permit the continued football use of the area.
- 2.2 To improve the current grass sward by re-seeding to increase dwarf perennial rye and creeping red fescue species. This will make the site far more durable for football use and events generally and ensure the site recovers quickly at the end of future seasons. This seeding will not be required every year but suggest every 3 years.
- 2.3 To fill any holes that may cause injury.

2.4 That the Alice Park Trust considers a charge rate to the football club to recover costs of the above works and to derive an income.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 Seeding has been quoted at a cost of £950 per 110x50m area with Rigby Taylor R13 seed. This would result in a total estimated cost of works at £1140.00 (including VAT).

3.2 The park is currently used for football on approximately 50 occasions per year, B&NES mini football (quarter adult pitch) hire price is £25.20 including VAT per use and this is benchmarked to others in the area. Therefore 50 pitch hires will derive £1260.00 to the Trust as an income if the decision to charge is applied.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 The Council is sole corporate trustee of the Alice Park Trust. The Alice Park Trust's Sub-Committee's terms of reference are to undertake the operational management functions in respect of the Alice Park site and its resources, in accordance with Trust's objects and the duties it owes pursuant to the Charities legislation.

4.2 Members in their capacity as Trustee must administer the Trust in good faith, abiding strictly to the objects of the Trust and administering the Trust for the benefit of the public which may at times conflict with the interests of the Council.

4.3 The objects of the trust require the land bequeathed to be used as a public park and children's recreation ground. The Sub-Committee must consider whether the Trust's objectives are enhanced by provision of organised sports use, whether to mitigate any potential impact that compromises others use by agreeing to re-seeding and whether the principle of charging for use is acceptable under the terms of the trust deed.

5 RATIONALE

5.1 The improvement in sward was considered necessary following a site inspection at end of football season (making it more resilient and improving recovery time).

6 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 Not to renew football use.

6.2 Not to re-seed.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Council's Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) has had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 Risks are being vulnerable to having an un-useable area which will be unsightly and recreationally unusable; this risk is increased should we have a wet winter. This will likely result in:-

- Complaints for preventing others recreational use
- Some loss of income should events/football hires not occur

8.2 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has not been undertaken as yet.

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Background papers	<i>None</i>
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