

Cabinet Member for: **Clean and Green Environment**

Subject: **Rotary Recreation Ground, Worthing**

Report Author(s) **Executive Head of Technical Services**

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report details a proposal to formalise the current arrangement for use and occupation of the Rotary Recreation Ground by a local cricket club.
- 1.2 The formal document is required in order to satisfy the terms of a grant recently awarded to the Club for improvements to the facilities.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Chippingdale Cricket Club was formed over a hundred years ago and has played all over Worthing since its formation. Since the 1980's the club has been based at the Rotary Recreation Ground, and currently uses both wickets, plus the east pitch of Hill Barn, together with the facilities at the pavilion. A potted history of the club, which was prepared for funding applications, is attached as further background information. The pavilion is also used by a number of football teams during the winter.
- 2.2 The Club has recently been successful with an application for a grant through the Lord's Taverners and its "Chance to Shine" project. They have been awarded £5,000 towards a non-turf pitch.
- 2.3 The Club was successful because for 2010 it has started a girls' section and has a Sussex County Coach going into local schools in Worthing to provide coaching sessions and promote the sport.
- 2.4 As part of the terms and conditions of the grant, the land on which the non-turf pitch is installed must be secured through ownership or lease for a minimum of 10 years.
- 2.5 The terms and conditions also require the project to be completed before the end of the 2010 cricket season.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 Prior to submitting the grant application, the club requested confirmation from the Council as to their continued occupation of the Rotary Recreation Ground. A letter was sent to the Club confirming that the grant of a licence permitting the Club to occupy and use the facilities on a similar basis to the current arrangement, for a minimum term of 10 years, would be recommended to the Cabinet Member for Clean and Green Environment, for approval.
- 3.2 The licence will formalise the Club's current use and occupation of the pitches and pavilions and will permit the Club to carry out improvements and provide additional facilities and equipment within the recreation ground, subject to the prior approval of the Council's Head of Parks & Foreshore.
- 3.3 In addition to the artificial wicket to be positioned on the edge of the cricket square on the Rotary East wicket, the Club has ambitions to provide a two bay cricket net and artificial practice surface, similar to the facilities at Worthing and Goring Cricket Clubs. It is likely that this would be located on the east boundary of the recreation ground, just to the north of the pavilion. The Club has already raised nearly half of the £40,000 required to build this and plan a big funding-raising push for this year, in the hope that it can be built at the beginning of 2011.
- 3.4 Their longer term aim, and with the right level of funding in conjunction with either a cricket or football foundation with a strong emphasis on juniors, is to improve or replace the current changing facilities.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 The formal licence agreement will be prepared by the Council's Legal Section so as to comply with the requirements of the grant. There are no other legal implications in respect of this matter.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 Currently the Chippingdale Cricket Club pays for the hire of the pitches as they use them. The fee includes use of the changing facilities.
- 5.2 It is envisaged that similar arrangements for payment of the hire charges will continue largely as at present.

6.0 Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Clean and Green Environment is recommended to approve the grant of a licence to the Chippingdale Cricket Club in order to formalise the current arrangements for the use and occupation of the pitches and pavilion at Rotary Recreation Ground, on the basis outlined in this report.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers: Correspondence

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Our ref: rwc/lh/projects/29523.000/R100421 rotary

Schedule of other matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Priority 2 – Make Worthing a safer, cleaner and healthier town, today and for tomorrow.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 **(A)** A healthier community
Improved facilities and services for children and young people.

(B) Matter considered and no issues identified

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

5.0 Community Safety issues (Section 17)

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

8.0 Consultations

8.1 (A) All necessary internal consultations carried out.

8.2 (B) Responses and feedback included in the report.

9.0 Risk assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

12.0 Partnership working

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified