



3 June 2010

Decision to be taken by 11 June 2010

Ward: N/A

Key Decision: No

Southwick Cricket Club, Southwick Green – Installation of Artificial Cricket Wicket

Report by the Executive Head of Leisure & Cultural Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Report advises the Cabinet Member of a formal request from Southwick Cricket Club for permission to install an artificial turf cricket wicket at their ground at Southwick Green.
- 1.2 The Club require the consent of the Council as landlord and owner of the ground.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Southwick Cricket Club have played cricket on the green at Southwick for many years and are an active and successful club.
- 2.2 The Cricket Club have recently expanded to six teams for 2010 including three colt's teams at U10, U14 and U16 levels. They are also considering developing a girl's team to further extend their activities for youngsters from the local community.
- 2.3 Currently the green has 7 wickets, although the 2 outside wickets are not suitable for league play.
- 2.4 The pressure of wear and tear from 6 teams, including requirements for training and colt's development is increasingly problematic in maintaining the quality of grass wickets. The club therefore propose to install an artificial cricket wicket primarily for use by colts and for adult training, but also to generally support the needs of the club. The proposal would be to install the artificial cricket wicket at the edge of the existing cricket table, therefore minimising any impact on the remaining grass wickets.
- 2.5 The artificial wicket will be either a hard porous or T based system, both of which are approved by the English Cricket Board.

- 2.6 Generally the installation of such wickets involves a relatively shallow excavation, back-filled with stone and hardcore overlaid with a shock pad and artificial grass wicket. The whole installation is levelled to the surrounding grass surface and therefore has minimal physical or visual impact on the green.

3. PLANNING ISSUES

- 3.1 The Club have held discussions with the Council's Planning Officers and have been advised that Planning Permission would not be required for the proposed installation.

4. LEGAL ISSUES

- 4.1 As advised the Cabinet Member is required, on behalf of the Council, to indicate whether he is prepared to give Landlord's permission to the Club to enable them to undertake the installation. Should such permission be granted, then the installation would need to be undertaken to the satisfaction of the Council's Executive Head of Technical Services, to ensure that no liability fell on the Council.
- 4.2 Southwick Green is a registered village green, and therefore special consideration needs to be given to the matter of any development or works that are undertaken on the green. The Council's Legal Section have advised that provided that any work is undertaken "with a view to the better enjoyment of the green", then it should be acceptable in relation to the requirements relating to village green status.
- 4.3 Legal Services colleagues have, however also advised that the Charity Commission should be involved in the decision to install an artificial cricket wicket, and subject to the Cabinet Member's decision the Legal Services section will undertake necessary communication with the Commission.
- 4.4 The Council is permitted to provide facilities and services for public recreation such as artificial cricket wickets under the provisions of section 19 of The Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The basis of the proposal is that the club should finance the project fully either through its own resources or with the help of grants through the ECB of other relevant bodies. The club will also be responsible for any on-going costs.
- 5.2 There are no financial implications for the Council.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Southwick Cricket Club wish to install an artificial cricket wicket to assist with their continuing development as a community cricket club.

- 6.2 It is not considered by officers that the installation of a cricket wicket would be of any detriment to other users of the green, and therefore the proposal should be supported.
- 6.3 The installation of the cricket wicket would however be subject to obtaining firm guidance on village green and Charity Commission issues to ensure that no subsequent problems arise.
- 6.4 The Cabinet Member is also advised that if he is minded to agree to the proposed installation, then he should delegate to the Executive Head of Leisure & Cultural Services the resolution of details with the Cricket Club to ensure that the installation is properly carried out and that no future liability falls to the Council in terms of replacement or subsequent maintenance.

7. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- (a) agree to the installation by Southwick Cricket Club of an artificial cricket wicket on Southwick Green, subject to the provisos set out in the section above.**

John Thorpe
Executive Head of Leisure & Cultural Services

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Background Papers: None

Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 To Promote a Clean and Green Environment.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 The report deals with a request from Southwick Cricket Club to gain landlords permission to provide a new facility that will maintain and strengthen their future viability.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 The new artificial wicket will encourage new members and youngsters to join the Club securing a strong future base of players.

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 Planning and Legal Officers as mentioned and advise in the report.

9.0 Risk assessment

9.1 No changes to the original Risk assessments for the playing of cricket.

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 The cricket club will be offered assistance to procure once funds are agreed.

12.0 Partnership working

12.1 The report is about partnership working with the club/user of the facilities and improving the future provision of cricket at Southwick.