
RAYLEIGH BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB (Min 102)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the outcome of the site meeting that was held recently with representatives of the Rayleigh Boys Football Club regarding their concerns over the conditions of the football pitches at Grove and Fairview.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Following the correspondence that had been received from Rayleigh Boys Football Club regarding the football pitches at Grove and Fairview Playing Fields, Members decided that a site visit should take place between Members and Officers of the Council and representatives of the Football Club to discuss the issues that the club had highlighted.

3 SITE VISIT

- 3.1 The meeting took place on Wednesday 6th June at Grove Playing Fields and was attended by Councillors D R Helson, J R F Mason and S Smith, Council officers R.Crofts, J.Bourne, G.Dawson and also members of the Rayleigh Boys Football Club.
- 3.2 All the highlighted issues were discussed at this meeting with the outcomes as follows;
- 3.3 The ditch around the pitch contains conventional land drains that only supply surface drainage from nearby properties and so do not affect the playing pitch. However, the ditch will be cleared on a regular basis in the future.
- 3.4 The large holes in the bottom pitch have already been filled and will be topped up again prior to the start of the new season.
- 3.5 There are no mole drains in between the pitches but the conventional land drainage appears to be working adequately.
- 3.6 There are official Council signs in the area stating that horse riding is not permitted.
- 3.7 The grass became long in the Autumn due to this year's excessive wet weather arriving early whilst conditions were still mild and the grass still growing. The heavy machinery used to cut the grass would have caused deep ruts and general damage to the pitches if used at that time.

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- 3.8 The changing room toilet has not been leaking although there was a leak in the roof. This has now been repaired with a corrugated iron type roof to prevent similar damage in the future.
- 3.9 The access road to the car park is the responsibility of Essex County Council although previous repairs had resulted in a speeding up of the traffic using the route as a link from Connaught Road.
- 3.10 It was agreed that the creation of a pathway through to the other pitches would not result in any improvement to the playing areas.

4 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 In addition to the information gained from the on-site meeting, the following proposals are also suggested;
- The Council's engineers will investigate the feasibility of installing extra land drainage between the pitches taking into account the cost of such a project against the benefit that may be gained.
 - Serviceteam groundsmen are to have access on site to forks and buckets to aid the removal of any surface water.
 - The Council to lobby Essex County Council to carry out repairs to the access road to the car park.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There would be a direct cost to the Council if the installation of extra land drainage were to be undertaken (cost to be estimated by the council's engineers).

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Improvements to the facilities/pitches at Grove and Fairview Playing Fields would assist in maintaining better playing conditions and surfaces.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

to consider the content of the site meeting discussions and to recommend undertaking the proposals detailed in section 4 of this report. (CD(FES))

Roger Crofts

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