

## **CATERING FRANCHISES ON OPEN SPACES**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the opportunities that may be available to increase the number of catering franchises on Open Spaces and Woodlands at times of increased public attendance.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Following the review of Play Spaces and the meeting of the Playspace Sub-Committee it was agreed that officers should investigate the opportunity to provide further income to support open space provision by considering the introduction of catering franchises at appropriate locations.

### **3 SUITABLE SITES**

- 3.1 In considering where it may be possible to sell franchises for there to be a reasonable income to the Council there must be opportunity for sufficient volume sales. This report does not look at commercial viability of franchises, but where it may be possible and how the Council moves forward in this provision.
- 3.2 The main opportunities appear to be where there is weekend use of playing pitches, and Hockley Woods, mainly in the summer months, when there is ample usage of the woods and adjacent facilities. Although there are no existing headcounts on footfall and usage, these are areas that are regularly seen to be busy at the times indicated. A football match would probably have a minimum of 40-50 people directly involved, and with multiple uses of pitches at weekends total footfall could run into hundreds.
- 3.3 The sites considered unsuitable either due to lack of footfall or where there are existing facilities locally, as in Hullbridge are:
- Rochford Recreation Ground
  - Canewdon Recreation Ground
  - Hullbridge Recreation Ground
  - Clements Hall
- 3.4 Sites for which there may be sufficient demand are considered to be:

- Great Wakering – 4 pitches in use
- Ashingdon – 6 Pitches in use
- Fairview - 4 pitches in use
- Rawreth - 4 pitches in use
- St.John Fisher – 3 pitches in use
- Grove – 1 Senior pitch, 2 Junior pitches 1 mini pitch

Football pitches would be during the football season only

- Hockley Woods – mainly summer 7 days a week, weekends only spring and autumn in addition to the existing ice cream franchise.
- Sweyne Park - summer months.

- 3.5 Members should note that an Ice cream sales franchise already exists at Hockley Woods that brings in a small income of £300 per year for allowing the vendor to operate.

#### **Other Issues arising from introducing Franchises**

- 3.6 The introduction of catering franchises brings in potential income, and hopefully more customer satisfaction, but there may be downside issues that need to be considered. These include additional rubbish which can be partly dealt with in franchise conditions, and potentially some public objection to the presence of such facilities.
- 3.7 All mobile catering facilities are required to be registered as to their place of storage with the Local Authority, Environmental Health division. In this situation it is likely some may be registered with adjacent Authorities.
- 3.8 All mobile catering facilities need to conform to hygiene regulations and need to be inspected either once or twice a year by the food safety team in Environmental Health, the number of times based on experience of the facility.

## **4 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Operational Risk**

The main operational risk is that of ensuring that locations are kept clean and free from litter after use. Potentially this could require additional cleansing resources. On this basis, Members could decide to trial franchises initially for one year.

### **4.2 Third Party Risk**

Food hygiene is managed by Safety inspections of mobile facilities by Environmental Health.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

- (1) That officers seek expressions of interest as to the viability of taking up the franchise opportunities.
- (2) That Members agree the identified locations for a trial period of 12 months.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

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**Background Papers:-**

None

For further information please contact David Timson on:-

Tel:- 01702 318110

E-Mail:- david.timson@rochford.gov.uk