

FIVE A SIDE FOOTBALL, FAIRVIEW PLAYING FIELDS (Min 345(3)/00)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides information of the costs involved with formalising the use of the five-a-side football area in Fairview Playing Field and installing a tarmac area for the installation of basketball goals.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the meeting of Full Council on 24th October 2000, a motion was put forward:
1. That the informal five-a-side football area in Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh be surfaced and laid out as a five-a-side football pitch.
 2. In addition, two basketball goals be sited within this area from the bid made to the English Basketball Association under Minute 81 of the Leisure Sub Committee held on 13th June 2000 and Minute 196 of the Community Services Committee held on 27th June 2000.

The motion was referred to Community Services Committee.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The English Basketball Association Outdoor Basketball Initiative (EOBI) was introduced with the aim of providing 10,000 basketball goals, across the country, where young people could play casual basketball free of charge. Initially the initiative was due to end on 31/12/99 but because the 10,000 goal target had not been met, it was extended for a further year. Funding for this initiative has now come to an end and the number of goals remaining is limited. As far as Rochford is concerned, there are only 20 goals left to be allocated to the whole of the Eastern Region. These are being allocated on a first come first serve basis. Even although the site at Fairview is registered to receive goals, the provision is not guaranteed.
- 3.2 The area proposed for this initiative was formerly a croquet lawn and is now used for informal five-a-side football. It is not large enough for provision of both basketball and 5-a-side football. Therefore, it is suggested that due to the other activities provided on the playing field that basketball is chosen as the preferred option. However, should Officers fail to secure provision of the two basketball goals, that formalisation of 5-a-side football proceeds as option 2.

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- 3.3 If Members are minded to proceed with this initiative it should be noted that work will need to commence this current financial year. A condition of receiving the free goals is that they must be installed on a tarmac area, grass is unacceptable. For a two goal site, the minimum area required is 20m x 10m.
- 3.4 The only other site in Rayleigh providing this type of basketball provision is at John Fisher Playing Field. Informal 5-a-side football can also only be found at the western side of the town.
- 3.5 During the public consultation held during August last year concerning the future use of two of the tennis courts on Fairview Playing Field, five of the residents who responded suggested using this area for basketball and 5-a-side football.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Provision of leisure activities has been proven to reduce instances of youth nuisance and vandalism.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated cost of providing each of the options is set out below.

Option 1 – Tarmac area - £8,000

Installation of basketball goals - £1,500

Option 2 – Provision and installation of 5-a-side football goals - £3,000.

- 5.2 No budget provision has been made for this initiative.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Fairview Playing Fields lie within the Rayleigh Town Council area.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
1. Whether or not this initiative should proceed.
 2. That Members agree to basketball being the preferred option .
 3. That if Officers fail to secure two basketball goals from the EOBI, that work commences to formalise the 5-a-side football area.
 4. That if Members agree to the initiative proceeding, Finance & General Purposes Committee are requested to allocate the appropriate funding. (CD(FES))

R Crofts

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Background Papers:

None

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