# 204.18.19 Football Pitch Renovations

## Pitch Condition Report

Pitch 1 has had heavy wear through the season and is looking very worn. The goal mouths were built up last year but now need re-seeding and topping up. We have some top soil that can be used to bring the levels up but grass will not recover until play stops for the season.

**Recommendation:** That Pitch 1 is rested for the rest of the season to allow repairs to be started early. This would require the goals to be removed as teams will continue to use the pitch if they are left up.

Pitch 2 has had less use but there is some wear and the goal mouths are reported to be waterlogged and need topping up. The goal mouths would benefit from slitting to improve the drainage which can be done in house. Teams are being encouraged to use pitch 3 when-ever possible.

Pitch 3 has had much lower use and is in good condition overall but there are some bare patches affected by moles in one corner. The moles have been removed. The patches can be seeded by hand.

Pitch 4 (9 v 9) is in fair condition but is looking a bit worn and needs some seed.

Pitches 5 & 6 (Mini pitches) are in fair condition with some wear around the goal mouths and centre spot, particularly of pitch 6 which is closest to the pavilion. The rounders pitch will be marked out using the side line as a base line.

## Proposed renovation works 2019

April **Selective weed spraying** – all pitches – The Town Council has been approached to price for this work but have indicated they would be uncompetitive against local contractors who have the appropriate machinery. Weed control contractors have therefore been asked to provide quotes.

**Scarification:** (N.B. Assumes arisings to be tipped on the rough grass to the side of the pitches and left to rot down. If they are to be removed there would be an extra cost).

May **Goal posts to be taken down mid-May (Pitch 1 goals could be taken down immediately)**

**Apply slow release fertilizer** - Recommend soil analysis be undertaken and fertilization plan prepared to ensure most cost effective use of fertilizer, which can be expensive. A contractor has been approached to undertake a soil survey. A quotation for fertilizing all the pitches has been provided (38 bags) but it is likely that savings can be made by identifying the areas where it is most needed. It is likely that pitches 1 and 2 will benefit most from treatment so it is recommended that the Council provisionally budgets for 20 bags of fertilizer and for prices to be considered at the Finance Committee meeting on 15 April.

Following the end of the football season (mid-May) it is recommended that the pitches be **over seeded** with a good quality sports renovation seed mix applied with a disc-seeder or seed drill. The options are for a contractor to supply and apply the seed or for us to purchase the seed and arrange for it to be applied by a local contractor.

Over-seeding quotes are based on density of seed (20 or 30gsm). It is recommended that pitches 1 and 2 receive a high density of seed with pitch 4 receiving high density over the goal mouths and worn patches only with a lower density elsewhere. Seed quotes were requested based on 500Kg of good quality amenity sports renovation seed but it may be appropriate to reduce the quantities now we are closer to the planting season. E.g.

Pitch 1 30gsm = 150 Kg seed

Pitch 2 30gsm = 150 Kg seed

Pitch 4 20gsm = 75 Kg seed

Other pitches (worn areas only) = say 50 Kg seed

Total 425 Kg

Seed quotes have been based on 500Kg so revised quotes will be requested

Application with disc-seeder costs are priced per pitch. It is suggested that the Council arranges a disc-seeder for pitches 1, 2 and 4 and applies the rest of the seed by hand.

**June Sand Spreading** – Last year the Council invested in a large quantity of sand which was applied evenly across the pitches. It is recommended that only pitches 1 and 2 be sand dressed this year as they have been most heavily used. Quotes have been obtained based on 60T of sand.

A contractor’s quote to supply and spread the sand has already been shared with the Council and a second quote from the Town Council has been requested. The Town Council can command competitive rates due to the quantities they purchase but their haulage vehicles would struggle to access our site so they would charge for transportation from Shrewsbury to Lythwood and spreading. We would need to fit in with their spreading programme.

October **Earthquaking –** This improves drainage and needs to be done when the ground conditions are soft. It is recommended this be reviewed in early autumn.

## Recommendations:

* That Pitch 1 be rested for the remainder of the season
* That ALS be instructed to undertake weed spraying and scarification by the end of April unless a more competitive quote is received from Paul Littlehales before the end of this week
* That a soil analysis be undertaken to develop a fertilisation plan and that this be used to determine optimal quantities and type of fertiliser.
* That this plan be used to obtain further competitive quotes that shall be reported to the Finance Committee or that the Clerk be given delegated authority to approve expenditure to a given budget.
* That 420 Kg of seed be purchased at the best price available and that a decision on which contractor be instructed to apply the seed be delegated to the Clerk following the receipt of all outstanding quotes.
* That 60T of sand dressing be applied to pitches 1 and 2 based on the best price available.

# Confidential Quotations and Cost Estimates:

A number of quotations were requested before I went on holiday but unfortunately several are still outstanding. All have been chased up today and prices requested by the end of the week.