

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8th SEPTEMBER 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Item 5 – Shakespeare Park - Improvement & Development

Purpose

To consider the arrangements for the initial informal meeting of the Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion Management Committee and to consider options for interim support for the Shakespeare Park Bowls Club.

Establishment of Management Committee

As set out in the report circulated with the agenda, while the legal framework for the future management and pitch arrangements are finalised, an informal Management Committee is proposed for operation during the autumn to maintain dialogue with and between the clubs and oversee the day to day operation of the facility in the interim.

As set out in the timescales at Appendix 3 the aim is to hold the first meeting this month with a subsequent meeting in October. The current aim is for the legal documents to be considered by Policy & Resources Committee in November meaning that the November meeting of the Management Committee would be more formal.

The interim informal Management Committee should be made up of two representatives from each of the Clubs (Bowls and Football) and two Town Councillor representatives of the Town Council. Given the Town Council are still legally responsible for the Pavilion facilities, one of the Town Councillor representatives ought to chair the Management Committee for the interim period. The Committee would be attended/supported by both the Chief Executive & Town Clerk and the Deputy Chief Executive & Town Clerk, who will provide the administration for the interim period.

As appropriate, other representatives can be invited to attend.

Interim Support for the Bowls Club

Due to falling membership numbers prior to the refurbishment and the impact of Covid-19 on the club's operations and ability to attract new members; the Club's membership is down from around 40 (6 years ago) to 24. The Club charge an £80 membership fee, which is similar to surrounding clubs.

As part of the pitch allocation and now the interim arrangement for the current season, the Club are responsible for maintaining the bowling green; this includes the

Bowls Club carrying out the agreed maintenance programme using a suitably qualified contractor to supply all materials and undertake the following work :-

- a) APRIL supply and apply fertiliser and weedkiller
- b) JUNE supply and apply fertiliser and weedkiller
- c) Summer Green Cutting (3 cuts per week)
- d) OCTOBER supply and spread 6 tonnes of Top Dressing, spread seed with dimple spreader
- e) JAN / FEB supply and treat with weedkiller
- f) MARCH supply and apply Moss/Worm/Turf Tonic Treatment
- g) in year 4 of the maintenance cycle: hollow tine the green and apply additional top dressing.

The contractor and supply costs for the above are estimated between £2,500 and £3,000 per annum.

With 15 members the Club have stated that they do not have the finance to meet the above obligations and this puts the Club at risk.

If the Town Council took over maintenance of the bowling green, specialist equipment would need to be purchased and there would be a significant commitment on staff time, which would either result in cuts to existing services or increasing staff resources.

Therefore, it is proposed that the Bowls Club continue to be responsible for cutting the green and commissioning the above works. However, to enable the Club to re-establish itself following Covid, increase its membership and be in a better financial shape to take on a 10 year licence, it is proposed that the Town Council pay for the contractors and supplies identified above for the next two seasons, i.e. until 31st March 2025 (estimated cost over the period £5,000 to £6,000).

Additional Recommendations

3. that an interim Management Committee to oversee the day to day operations of Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion be established as set out in the *Establishment of Management Committee* section of the report;
4. that *two Town Councillors* be appointed to serve on the interim Management Committee (one Councillor being the Chair for the interim period), with Shakespeare Park Bowls Club being able to appoint two representatives and Braunstone Athletic being able to appoint two representatives to serve on the Management Committee;
5. that the principle of providing *Interim Support for the Bowls Club*, to maintain the bowling green, as set out in the relevant section of the report, be approved; and
6. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine whether to implement the *Interim Support for the Bowls Club*, and if so, how the arrangements would be implemented, including required information and evidence for the assertions made by the Club.

Additional Reasons

3. To maintain dialogue with and between the clubs and oversee the day to day operation of the Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion.
4. To enable each of the existing Clubs to be represented along with the Town Council and to ensure that administrative support would be provided to ensure the smooth running of the Committee and implementation of its decisions.
5. To enable the Club to re-establish itself following Covid, increase its membership and be in a better financial shape to take on a 10 year occupation licence for the bowling green.
6. To undertake due diligence prior to committing the Council's support and ensure that the resources would be committed in accordance with the Financial Regulations.