

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

22 September 2009

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 TONBRIDGE SCHOOL – FLOODLIT ALL WEATHER PITCH

Summary

This report updates Members of the Board on progress with the upgrade of the ‘Rowan’ all weather pitch at Tonbridge School, to provide community use.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Within the current financial year of the Capital Plan, provision exists for the upgrade of the ‘Rowan’ all weather pitch at Tonbridge School, on a partnership basis with the School.

1.1.2 The upgrade of the all weather pitch includes a new surface, fencing and, most importantly, floodlighting to allow the facility to be used by local community clubs in the evenings. The floodlit all weather pitch will be the first such full sized facility available to the community in the Borough, and meets an identified deficiency in the Leisure & Arts Strategy 2008-13, the Open Space Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy.

1.2 Progress to Date

1.2.1 At the time of writing this report work is well under way on site in progressing the works, following the appointment of the contractor.

1.2.2 It is anticipated that work will be complete by the date of the meeting. If the project is delayed the School has offered clubs the use of its other astro pitches.

1.2.3 A detailed Community Use Agreement has been agreed between the School and the Council, with the assistance of Tonbridge Sports Association. Local community sports clubs hoping to hire the new facility attended an open evening at the School on 3 August 2009, which was also attended by the Chairman of Tonbridge Sports Association. The allocation of hire times is currently being finalised. Whilst demand is predominantly from Tonbridge based clubs, Members will be pleased to note that a junior football club from East Malling has also been successful in securing time.

1.3 Community Use Agreement

- 1.3.1 In return for the Council's investment in the facility, community use has been secured for the facility from 18:00 to 22:00 weekdays all year round, with the exception of 1 April to 30 June.
- 1.3.2 The facility will be fully operated and maintained by the School, and the School will use the income generated to create a sinking fund for maintenance, repairs and renewal of fixed-life elements.
- 1.3.3 Booking arrangements and charges are all specified in the Community Use Agreement, and usage will be monitored through the existing six monthly liaison meetings that already take place between the School, the Council and Tonbridge Sports Association.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 A detailed Community Use Agreement has been agreed between the School and the Council, which was prepared in close liaison with Legal Services. The Agreement will ensure that community groups are able to use the facility at specified times and, in the unlikely event of the School terminating the Agreement, a proportionate amount of the Council's financial contribution shall be repaid to the Council, according to the unexpired residue of the term of the Agreement at the date of termination.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 The total cost of the scheme is £600,000, with a funding contribution of £300,000 from both the School and the Council. Members will be delighted to note that the Council's contribution has been met from developer contributions. There will be no ongoing revenue costs associated with the facility to the Council.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 Risks associated with the scheme have been addressed by the provision of a Community Use Agreement.

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Healthy Lifestyles, Young People.

Background papers: Nil

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