

REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

TO: NELSON, BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE

DATE: 5th SEPTEMBER, 2022

Report Author: Phil Riley
Tel. No: 01282 661587
E-mail: philip.riley@pendle.gov.uk

CRICKET PROVISION AT EDGE END PLAYING FIELDS, BRIERFIELD

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To Update Members on Cricket provision at Edge End Playing fields.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members decide whether to reinstate cricket provision at the Edge End Playing fields or to leave as a football only site.
- (2) If the decision is to reinstate the cricket facility, that funding be provided by the Committee to carry out the works required.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Cricket provision at Edge End was withdrawn in 2021.
- (2) The Cost of reinstating the Cricket facility to a good standard is substantial as are the costs of maintenance / annual refurbishments.

ISSUE

1. It was requested by members of the Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Committee on the 6th June 2022 that a report be produced on the current state of the cricket facilities at Edge End playing fields.
2. Currently within the borough cricket facilities are only provided at Bulhome and Swinden Playing fields.
3. A report was submitted to the management team by the PBC Greenspaces manager on the 10th November 2020 regarding rationalisation of sports facilities across the borough. Following further discussion from this meeting, it was agreed in March 2021 that the cricket pitch at Edge End, and also Victory park should no longer be maintained owing to declining usage and financial constraints.

4. To reinstate the Edge End cricket wicket and square in traditional grass format would be in the region of £5000, alternatively an artificial wicket would cost £8-9000.
5. Edge End as a cricket facility suffers due to it being mixed usage as the cricket field is sandwiched in between two Football pitches. The site is very wet and waterlogged during the winter months. This is likely to result in indirect damage to the square / wicket during the football season.
6. Edge End is also a location prone to antisocial behaviour, a traditional grass wicket is liable to be vandalised. An artificial wicket may also be vandalised/cut/ripped etc. which would result in high replacement cost. Historically the fencing has been broken on a couple of occasions as has grass damage caused by bikes and physical attack on the fine turf. Security of the site could be improved by repairing fencing and altering gates to anti climb versions etc. This is liable to cost an additional £1000 - £1500.

Discussion

The Main users of PBC cricket facilities are the Pendle District Cricket League (PDCL) that currently use the existing wickets at Bullholme and Swinden most Sundays during the cricket season of April to September.

The league comprises 8 teams of 15-20 players between 18 and 50 years old. PDCL have stated that more teams are interested in joining, but there is no capacity to cope with this demand on just 2 sites.

Throughout the year there are also occasional requests from other cricket organisations and private clubs regarding occasional hire. These are mostly turned down to lack of availability.

Swinden is also used by a Tape ball cricket club, they do not book matches or pay any fees.

Income from Cricket on PBC Sites

2016 £1293

2017 £1096

2018 £1014

2019 £376

2020 £0 – Covid 19 Pandemic

2021 £605

2022 £622* to end of June

*£393 of this is including pavilion usage, £229 is for the pitch only

Over the past few years the PDCL have hired the pitch only for which they are charged £16 per game.

This season the league have mostly hired the pavilion as well for toilet facilities. The charge for this is then £49 per game.

Costs associated with providing an attendant average £49 plus sundries such as cleaning materials and paper towels, waste disposal etc. This results in zero income for the pitch.

Total income for 2022 is predicted to be £1805, only £384 of this is for pitch hire.

Costs to maintain a single site of x 4 cricket wickets, square and the associated outfield to an acceptable standard, including high rates of mowing, dressing, renovations, rolling and line marking are £7647 per annum.

Currently the site is not in a playable condition and would need remedial works to make it fit for purpose.

Option One

To reinstate Edge End as a traditional grass field would cost in the region of £5000. This is to include killing off the existing sward, scarifying, the addition of several tons of loam, seeding, fertilizers and intense watering and mowing regimes for several months, Labour and machinery costs.

If funding were to be provided for this, it would be most likely the wicket would not be ready for usage until the season of 2024.

The construction would need to be fenced off with heras fencing until it is very well established to reduce the risk of.

Option Two

To reinstate Edge End with an artificial Wicket would cost £8-9000 dependent on current inflationary costs and would need to be carried out by an external contractor. Although this is a higher initial capital cost option, the regular maintenance costs would be reduced to approximately £4200 per annum. This surface could be prepared ready for the 2023 season.

Lifespan of an artificial wicket is expected to be approximately 7 years before needing replacement, this is dependent on usage conditions and vandalism that may occur.

Sports and associated facility fee charging is due to be reviewed within the current transformation process.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report.

Financial: As outlined in the report.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from this report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Photos of site currently at Edge End.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.