

REPORT FROM: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL SERVICES

TO: BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE

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FOR INFORMATION

BARROWFORD CRICKET CLUB

ISSUE

Barrowford Cricket Club (BCC) requested funding of £12,500 from Committee to allow for the installation of security fencing around the cricket field at Bullholme playing fields, Barrowford. This request was previously considered and refused by Committee in July 2023.

The Club pavilion and grounds are subject to a long-term lease from Pendle Borough Council (PBC) on a full maintaining liability by BCC.

Over the last few years BCC has reported to PBC issues of anti-social behaviour, mainly down to dog foul, litter and damage to the pavilion building such as glue in the locks and vandalism to the roof. The Police are aware of these issues, but it appears that very few formal logs onto the Police database have been made by the BCC and as such does not present as a priority.

We are advised that the Club struggles financially allegedly in part due to the condition of the pavilion, which is now outdated, lacks inclusive access and generally in poor condition. The condition of the facilities prevents the Club moving up to higher Cricket Leagues due to a lack of suitable facilities, similarly it is reported that due to a lack of a bar or entertaining space, the Club is unable to create income through venue rental or parties.

PBC Operational Services, though sympathetic to the Club's plight do not have the revenue available to directly support BCC with repairs to the pavilion or installation of security fencing. PBC Officers have spoken with Lancashire Cricket, and the English Cricket Board regarding funding opportunities available to BCC. As the Club do not have youth team engagement, ladies' teams or disabled facilities or teams, which are key criteria for funding determinations grants are declined automatically.

The majority of other funding such as Lottery Grants will also be keen to see the benefit to the community and how any funding released will allow more users across the spectrum of the local community to be involved or to participate in cricket. This produces a 'chicken and egg' situation

whereby funding will not be released due to lack of diversity, yet without funding a full and diverse mix is difficult to achieve.

Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner may be available but owing to a lack of reports on the Police's own database a bid for funding may not be successful. The next application date for this fund is May 2024, but the actual date is yet to be advised.

There is no funding availability from the Community Safety Partnership.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report.

Financial: Direct funding from Operational Services is not available to support the Club. In the event of the Club ceasing to operate, the land and building will revert to PBC control.

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: None.

Background Papers: None.