

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**

**Community and Housing Committee**

**Request By Shenfield Cricket Club for Additional Fixtures  
of Courage Playing Fields Park Field**

*Report of:*                    *Stuart Anderson – Deputy operations Manager*

*Wards Affected:*        **Shenfield**

*This report is:*            *Public*

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Council has been approached by Shenfield Cricket Club with regard to playing additional fixtures on the park field and cricket square at Courage Playing Fields.
- 1.2 The club use two fields at the site, the first is the clubs original field on the land and is the field named in the 1950 deed of gift as the “Cricket ground situate upon the property”.
- 1.3 The second field is the main park field and permission was granted by the Council via the Leisure, Recreation and Arts Committee on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1993 for the club to establish a second cricket square on site due to the increase in playing members at the club.
- 1.4 This permission was granted with conditions, two of which were that the facility should be used for cricket on one day of the weekend and the other that the permission be reviewed at a later date [min. 304].
- 1.5 The later condition has never been carried out and the current arrangement has not been reviewed since 1993.
- 1.6 The club have requested to use the park field for additional fixtures this season that would result in the field being used for more then one day a weekend, therefore the Chair has requested that the item be brought before members for consideration as per the original permission.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That members consider the request for additional fixtures and instruct Officers to action accordingly.**

### **3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 In 1950 Courage Playing Fields was gifted to the Council by the Courage family.
- 3.2 The intention behind this was to provide much needed publicly accessible open space to the residents of the rapidly expanding ward of Shenfield. As part of the deed of gift an area of land was also highlighted to provide playing facilities i.e. square and wicket for Shenfield Cricket Club.
- 3.3 The club have utilised this piece of land as their home ground since the deed of gift, however in 1993 they approached the Council with a request to expand their facilities into the adjoining park field next to the main cricket field.
- 3.4 This request was considered by the Leisure, Recreation and Arts Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1993 with permission granted for the club to establish a second square and wickets on the park field.
- 3.5 This permission was granted with conditions, two of which were that the facility should be used for cricket on one day of the weekend and the other that the permission be reviewed at a later date [min. 304].
- 3.6 Each season the club have notified the Council in advance of the upcoming fixtures for the season so that they may be published on site on notice boards. The intention of this is that families are aware of when a match may be played on the park field and can plan their social recreation around these.
- 3.7 To date the club have fulfilled their obligations under the permission and have not played matches on more than one day of the weekend unless there has been exceptional circumstances.
- 3.8 The overall number of fixtures that are normally played on the park pitch during any given season can vary but is normally between 17 and 20 fixtures over the course of a season.

- 3.9 This season the club have approached the Council with a revised list of fixtures with 37 matches highlighted to be played between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XI's over the course of the season. This will result in the park field being used every Saturday and Sunday during the summer months. Please see appendix A.
- 3.10 As this request is outside of the conditions set by the Leisure, Recreation and Arts Committee in 1993 it has been brought back before Members for further consideration and debate.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 The Council has been approached by representatives of Shenfield Cricket Club who have submitted a list of fixtures for the current cricket season that contravenes the current permission granted by the Council.
- 4.2 If members are minded to granting permission then consideration needs to be given to the fact that the public use of the park field will be restricted during the busy summer weekends.
- 4.3 Members may also be aware that health and safety reports have been carried out by both the Club and Council which has resulted in the provision of safety netting and signage adjacent to the public right of way to reduce the risk of cricket balls conflicting with the users of the park field.
- 4.4 If permission for the fixtures is refused then this may have an impact on the club and it's ability to fulfil it league obligations for this season and possibly impact on its ability to attract additional members.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 To establish the Council's position with regard to the request for additional cricket fixtures at Courage Playing Fields on the park field.

#### **6. References to Corporate Plan**

- 6.1 To ensure the provision of efficient and effective services to our residents and businesses.

- 6.2 Providing increased customer satisfaction in the quality of Council services.
- 6.3 To Increase access to the Borough's leisure opportunities.
- 6.4 Making Brentwood a Borough where people feel safe, healthy and supported.

## **7. Implications**

### **Financial implications**

**Name & Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Interim Chief Finance Officer**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312 829**

**jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

**Name & Title: Assaf Chaudry, Governance Solicitor**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312500 assaf.chaudry@brentwod.gov.uk**

The purpose of this report is to consider the request from Shenfield Cricket Club for additional fixtures at Courage Playing Fields. Members would need to as part of their deliberation consider if they need to be cognizant of any conditions/restrictions contained in the Deed of Gift by the Courage family before agreeing the additional fixtures.

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 7.2 **Health & Safety implications**

**Name & Title: David Wellings, Health & Safety Officers**

**Tel & email: 01277 312 500 david.wellings@brentwood.gov.uk .**

A health and safety report has been agreed by a previous committee in September 2017 to require safety netting for cricket played on the Park pitch.

To minimise the Council's risk exposure and maximise public safety on the Park pitch from cricket balls during play, the agreed netting and signage arrangements continues to be installed, maintained in a good condition and pegged to prevent gaps in the netting. This will

be prior to each match on this pitch, and this to include the additional fixtures, should these be granted.

## 8. **Appendix**

Appendix A – Fixture list

### **Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Stuart Anderson

**Telephone:** 01277 312500

**E-mail:** [stuart.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk)