

Minutes of Millworth Lane Site Meeting by Sports Strategy Working Party on 17th August, 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Present: I Clarke (Chair), P Emmet, N Boyer, L James, M O'Brien, E Brown

Apologies: None (All members were present)

Agenda

Make a tour of Millworth Lane Recreation Ground to assess:

1. Ground remedial or improvement works
2. Car parking improvement works
3. Condition of the pavilion

Comment

At the time of arrival it was rewarding to see numerous activities taking place:

1. Cricket match
2. Cricket net practice
3. Children in play area
4. Tennis matches

Provisional assessments

1. Ground Remedial or improvement works suggested
 - a. Childrens Play area.
Clean dirty surface with a jet wash.
 - b. Area Behind Tennis Courts
Clear nettles and overgrown area beneath trees
Conduct a tree survey with a view to removing immature trees
 - c. SW Edge.
Clear nettles, weeds etc from overgrown strip of land approximately 100 x 5 metres in size.
Remove various scrap metal items such as abandoned cricket pitch covers and floodlights.
Scrape surface and seed.
 - d. NW edge to Pavilion
Remove three sheds and replace them with lined shipping containers. (Planning permission required)
Clear scrap metal items and rubbish from overgrowth. Scrape surface and seed.
 - e. NW edge from Pavilion
Clear 3 metre approx. overgrown strip along allotment fence between Pavilion, Entrance Gate and Driveway.

2. Pavilion

The pavilion is in a neglected condition and used as a dumping ground but must remain in use for the immediate future because:

- a. Cricket will continue until the new High Copse ground has been completed, currently forecast for 2023.
- b. Adult football will continue until 2026 under the terms of a contract with the Football Association.
- c. Both activities need changing room facilities.

3. Car Parking

At the time of the meeting the areas immediately outside the entrance to the recreation ground were overcrowded and some working group members had to park in Millworth Lane and walk.

This was compounded by the parking area inside the recreation ground being mostly empty because of the risk of a cricket ball from the nearby match smashing car windscreens.

Possible solution:

- a. Extend car parking area NW up to the allotment fence after the area has been cleared per 1c above.
- b. Extend car parking area SE by approximately 2 metres into the green space.
- c. Mark out parking spaces in herring bone style to maximise capacity.
- d. Erect a high fence along the green side of the car park to prevent damage to vehicles by cricket or footballs.

Longer Term Suggestions

1. Install a MUGA onto the cleared space to the NW of the pavilion
2. Install a skate park on the SW edge of the recreation ground
3. Replace the existing pavilion with a purpose made modular unit.
4. Install a modular toilet for the Tennis Club
5. Consult the Tennis Club over their possible expansion plans

See separate summary map

Conclusion

The Working Party was agreed that advice should be sought from a sports ground professional before proceeding with the suggested changes.

Actions

- a. Engage a sports ground professional to advise on design and best practice
- b. Obtain advice from WBC on hiring and charging for use of pitches and facilities
- c. Identify and make urgent repairs to pavilion including cleaning and repainting
- d. Request Cricket Club to remove the equipment they have scattered throughout the building.
- e. Invite scrap dealer to make an offer for the large amount of scrap spread around the recreation ground.

Meeting Closed at 21.15.

Date of Next Meeting. Report to Full Council 20th September 2021



Clear either side of car park to increase capacity

Clean with jet wash

Repair and eventually re

Clear overgrowth and make

scrap metal and install MUGA

and replaceainers

Clear overgrowth and install