

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 9

meeting date: 12 MARCH 2019
title: ARTIFICIAL PITCHES
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To outline a proposal to hold the existing charge for the artificial pitches on Edisford Road during April 2019, until the closure of the site for re-development.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions – To help make people lives safer and healthier
- Community Objectives – To improve the health and well-being of people living and working in our area. To improve the opportunity for young people to participate in recreational and sporting activity
- Other Considerations - None

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council is in the process of investing up to £1.4m to enhance and improve the artificial surfaces on Edisford Road. Members are aware of this scheme and the progress to date. Once complete it will provide some of the best facilities in Lancashire for our residents and visitors to use.

2.2 The current surfaces have been deteriorating for some time and it was hoped that they could last until work commenced on the new facility.

2.3 This has not happened and for several weeks one of the 3G pitches has been out of use because of failures to the surface, which could not be repaired in any cost effective way, leaving the pitch unsuitable for use.

3 ISSUES

3.1 This closure of one pitch has been very inconvenient to many of our customers and disrupted their training.

3.2 The new facility will mean that the existing provision will close around the end of April and all use will cease until the beginning of September when we open the new site.

3.3 In recognition of the problems we have had with the existing surface, it is proposed to retain the 18/19 pitch charges from 1st April until the site closes for redevelopment. This gesture of good will, from the Council, will be welcomed by our users and only see the Council forgoing the additional sum it would have received by implementing the inflationary rise agreed as part of the fees and charges report previously agreed.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – The sum which potentially the Council will forgo by not implementing the new charging is no more than £130 for April.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None
- Political – None at this stage.
- Reputation – This is a small gesture but one which shows the users that although the pitch issues were beyond the control of the Council, it has been possible to recognise the issue this has caused for our customers of the pitches.
- Equality and Diversity – None

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Approves not to apply the inflation increase to the current facility charges from 1st April 2019 to the date of closure.

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE

For further information, please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479

Community Services/ 12.3.19/Mark Beveridge