

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 28 MAY 2019
title: RIBBLE VALLEY 3G – PROPOSED CHARGES
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To outline the proposed charges for the Ribble Valley 3G (RV3G), scheduled to open at the beginning of September.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Council Ambitions – To help make people's 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 Contractor, Cleveland Land Services were appointed following the tender process for the project and they have now commenced work on site. They are scheduled to complete the work to enable an opening at the beginning of September. The fees and charges which were set in 2019/20 budget were for the old facility and now need to be amended to reflect the new facility being built.
- 2.2 The new facility will provide a full size 3G pitch, two 3G 5 aside pitches and a three tennis court size multi-surface area, plus toilets and a community/classroom. The full size pitch will be bookable in 1/3s, half and full pitch configurations.
- 2.2 In arriving at the proposed new charges, consideration has been given to the market and what other sites in neighbouring authorities charge, as well as consultation with the Local Football Leagues and the FA.
- 2.3 The income target for the year commencing 1 April 2020 is £95k and a charging scheme has been devised which seeks to maximise income whilst acknowledging that we are competing with other pitches within a short drive time. This is important because the clubs especially are used to travelling to the Prairie in Burnley, Accrington Academy and Colne to play matches and train on full size pitches now. Therefore their prices have been used as a guide when devising our own.
- 2.4 It is intended to get clubs and other users to book for as long as possible and to pay via direct debit.
- 2.5 The 5 aside pitches and tennis are relatively straightforward in that they are a fixed size and therefore have limited flexibility in terms of use. The main pitch however is completely different. We wish to encourage full pitch bookings as that ensures we get the maximum space utilisation, not something easily achieved if the pitch is booked out in 1/3s all the time.

- 2.6 Officers are in discussion with the 2 local football leagues for them to block book the pitch over a 3 or 4 month period in the winter to play matches on each weekend, at a time when demand will be lower generally because the clubs will be seeking to play their fixtures on grass.
- 2.7 The charges for the 3G pitches have been streamlined, compared to the old peak and off peak arrangements that used to be in place for the previous surface, this is in line with other facilities in East Lancashire to avoid confusion, so we will have one rate per area.
- 2.8 Casual users booking during the winter or the summer will receive a 5% discount off the rate if they book for 4 months continuously or 10% if they book for 8 months or more continuously, providing they pay by direct debit.
- 2.9 Affiliated clubs and educational use will also benefit from block booking reductions.
- 2.10 In addition it is proposed to have other rates to encourage use in the quieter periods of the summer, 1 May to 31 August, as well as making concessionary rates for groups as part of the 10% community use the Council agreed for the pitch when deciding to invest in it last year.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The demand for the spaces is expected to be high and we will need to be in constructive dialogue with clubs and casual users to ensure that the pitch use is maximised whilst trying to satisfy the needs of all concerned. Where possible first choice preferences will be given to users however, this might not be always possible. It will need to be managed effectively to ensure the most satisfactory outcome is reached for all concerned.
- 3.2 The new facility is expected to open in September and former users of the old provision as well as new users will be offered the chance to book, once we have the charging schedule agreed.

4. PROPOSED PRICING STRUCTURE

Tennis Adult per court	£12.00
Tennis Adult Space card	£6.00
Junior per court	£4.50
Junior Space Card	£3.50
Tennis Coach fee per court	£6.00
(SPACE card is the Councils' Concessionary scheme)	

RV3G	
5 aside (per hour)	£38
Main Pitch Per Hour	
1/3 peak	£38
Half pitch	£60
Full pitch	£100

Block booking discount for casual users (not applicable to clubs):
 4 months payable monthly by direct debit 5% (Sept- Dec or Jan -April)
 8 months payable monthly by direct debit 10% (Sept – April)
 Match fee (2 hrs, for league and cup games played under the auspices of a league with a qualified referee) £80

1 May – 31 August Summer Fee (to reflect the expected lower demand outside of the primary football season)

Full pitch £50 per hour
Half pitch £35 per hour

Community Rate (to facilitate use by groups the Council wish to encourage to use the facility to help with health issue or anti-social behaviour for example)

Full Pitch £30 per hour
Half Pitch £15 per hour
Five aside £10 per hour

Education Rate

Full Pitch £50 per hour
Half Pitch £35 per hour
Five aside £15 per hour

Community/Class room

£17.90 Per hour
£15.00 Per half day
£30.00 Per day

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The funding for this scheme was referred to and approved by Policy and Finance Committee in January 2019. The anticipated revenue budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21 informed the Councils' decision making process. The target income figure for 2019/20 (part year) is £75,000 and for 2020/21 is £95,000. At projected user rates, the proposed pricing structure will achieve those levels to offset the revenue costs associated with the facilities. The charges for the 2020/21 financial year will be reviewed by this committee in October 2019 as part of the usual fees and charges setting process.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None
- Political – None at this stage.
- Reputation – This scheme will provide first class facilities for its users and be available for clubs, individuals and other organisations to hire. It addresses a need that had been demonstrated to the Council over many years is likely to be welcomed and well used.
- Equality and Diversity – The Council is committed to work with all sections of the community and the new facility will enable both the Council and other organisations to specifically target and work with groups of people to benefit from the opportunities such a facility offers.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

Approves the proposed charges as set out in the report to apply from the opening of the new RV3G.



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