

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 11

meeting date: TUESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2020
title: RIBBLE VALLEY 3G
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on the operation of the Ribble Valley 3G (RV3G), which opened in September 2019.
- 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 a tender process for the project and they handed the 3G pitch over to the Council on 23rd September. The sand dressed tennis courts were handed over in November and the toilet block and community room were handed over at the beginning of December.
- 2.2 The new facility provides 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 is bookable in 1/3s, half and full pitch configurations.
- 2.2 Feedback from users has been very favourable, with many comments about how good the surfaces are for football. The shock pad, although installed to allow full contact rugby, has the added benefit of reducing muscle soreness for all players.
- 2.3 The income target for the year commencing 1 April 2020 is £95k, with a pro-rata sum for the current year. Currently it is expected the income target will be achieved.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The day time use will need to be developed, even though a number of bookings have already occurred from local schools and groups. These have tended to be ad hoc mainly due to the weather. A marketing pack will be designed to seek more consistent day time bookings. In addition, a summer activity programme will need to be established to provide opportunities for people during holiday periods.
- 3.2 The Edisford car park is at times almost full to capacity, which shows the success of the leisure sites in that part of the Borough. However, it also presents a challenge, when spring arrives, the car park will then have demand from people using the river bank area too, which is likely to lead to greater congestion along Edisford Road itself. A parking assessment of the car park is going to be carried out to help inform future decisions.

4 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.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None
- Political – None at this stage.
- Reputation – This facility provides first class facilities for users addressing a need that had been demonstrated to the Council over many years.
- 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.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Committee notes the report.

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE

For further information, please contact Mark Beveridge.