

APPENDIX D - Letter from Council Leisure Service

Date

Dear Team,

We write to advise you of the recent Sports Pitch Audit carried out by external consultants. Follow the link to view the comprehensive report.

https://www.activemidlothian.org.uk/media/midlothian_sports_pitch_needs_assessment_2018.pdf

As can be seen from the report, most communities in Midlothian are expected to grow and expand over the coming years. Despite this, the report suggests that we have an over provision of grass pitches with a need for more astro turf pitches and hybrid grass pitches with floodlighting.

The report also suggests the Council transfer ownership or close the majority of the kick about astro pitches. The Council receives no income from these facilities, therefore in the light of the cutbacks facing the Council, there will be no further investment. As the Council have also approved a saving to be made of £100,000 within its Halls and Pavilions portfolio, we wish to consider a number of issues, including the leasing out of our grass pitches with accommodation, to help assist this Council decision.

There has been some positive development on the pitches front. New grass pitches have been created at Bilston and Newbattle and the astro facilities at Paradykes PS/Loanhead Leisure Centre were upgraded, while a new 3G pitch was installed at the Newbattle Community Campus.

As you are aware the Councils budget for the maintenance of the sports pitches has been cut, so we are required to instigate some of the closures recommended in the report. We are considering taking the following actions, as always these measures are open to discussion.

Grass Pitch Changes - 2018

Location	Future Maintenance cost	Recommended action
Close-grass pitch at Danderhall Park		
Danderhall Park one (pitch to rear of the Miners Club)– in fact this has not been available since November and has been lined as seven asides as a trial – (no bookings)	As grassland meadow £324.00	March 2018
Close grass pitch at Roslin Park		
Roslin – in fact this was closed in November (No bookings) This Park could be reinstated if demand grows in the future.	As grassland meadow £324.00	Complete for 2018
Close two grass pitches at KGV Park		
Seven asides KGV Bonnyrigg- Close - transfer play to astro pitches (drainage issues)	As amenity grass £624.00	August 2018
Close grass pitch at Easthouses Park		
Easthouses close one eleven aside pitches -(report recommend both pitches)	As grassland meadow £324.00	August 2018
Close grass pitch at Rosewell Park		
Rosewell Pitch – closure due to lack of bookings and use	As grassland meadow £324.00	August 2018

Astro Pitch Changes - 2018

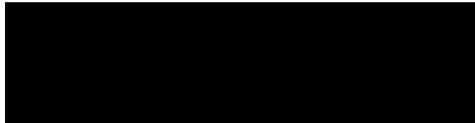
Location	Future Maintenance cost	Action
Rosewell astro closed already and surface lifted	Occasional clean £300.00	Complete
Arniston kick about astro - consider transfer to local club i.e. Arniston Rangers.	Nil	Seek to transfer In June
Cowden Park - transferred to local club on long term lease(Club already has had re surfaced) cease maintenance	Nil	Complete
KGV Bonnyrigg seek to transfer to Bright Sparks on long-term lease cease maintenance and lock gates in the interim.	Nil if locked or transferred	For 2019
Close Mayfield astro kick abouts Uplift astro surface approx. cost 8K (ideally as new school opens with astro facilities)	One off cost to uplift surface of 8K Occasional clean £300.00	For 2019
Also major issues with Poltonhall Astro being worn out but no funding to replace the surface! i.e. recently 8 holes down to the sub base. Transfer or close this facility.	Nil	Seek to transfer to Bonnyrigg Rose on a long term lease. In 2018 or close in August.

Some of the tables in the report are a little onerous to interpret so we would be happy to discuss these with you if required.

We would also welcome any other feedback or proposals you have for the grass or astro facilities. Can you please pass any comments to Tony Malone by letter before Monday 2 July 2018, (meetings can be arranged on request).

Please send any replies/queries to the address at the top of the letter.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Tony Malone.

Tony Malone
Healthy Living Manager