

## Policy and Finance Committee

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

**Title:** Pages Park Fine Turf Lawns

### Purpose of the Report:

To consider the potential direct funding sources for levelling the fine turf lawns at Pages Park.

### Contact Officer:

Ian Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>	Objective 27 - To consider ways to support the increase in leisure opportunities for older people	
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	Yes	Up to £28,000
<b>Human Resources</b>	No	
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>	No	
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	No	
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>	No	
<b>Environmental Aims</b>	No	

## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Policy and Finance Committee be minded:-

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To approve and endorse at 925/9033 Open Space Improvements with available funds of £72,496 to be used for the levelling of the fine turf lawns to a maximum value of £28,000.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The refurbishment of Pages Park pavilion was completed to ensure it is safe and suitable for the continued community and sporting use. During the value engineering of the project, aspirational items requested by the main pavilion user were omitted to ensure the refurbishment came within the required budget.

- 2.2 We are now in the position to start to deliver on these aspirational items. Pages Park has been home to the Leighton Linlade Croquet Club since January 2000 when the Town Council approved the development of the then-underused Lawn Tennis Courts into three fine turf lawns used to play croquet.
- 2.3 Over the past twenty years, the Town Council has had an excellent relationship with the Croquet Club. Most longstanding Cllrs have had the pleasure of performing the Opening Season "stroke".
- 2.4 It is believed the club is now at the stage where the former tennis courts' condition and playability are holding it back from developing. The levelling of the fine turf lawns at Pages Park will require both specialist machinery and contractors to undertake the work.
- 2.5 Members of the Croquet Club and the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services have met with several contractors over the summer. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services has commissioned a topographical survey of the fine turf lawns to understand the best way to undertake potential levelling works.
- 2.6 The attached quotation is considered the best value for money by an experienced contractor; the other quotation received was over £50,000 for the same work.
- 2.7 At its meeting held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee received a report to consider the potential levelling of the fine turf lawns at Pages Park and for the Policy and Finance Committee to consider potential direct funding sources.

The repair and improvement of the footpath was also discussed, and the Committee agreed these works should be completed at the same time as the levelling of the turf lawns. The Croquet club would contribute £5,000 towards the costs.

## **RESOLVED**

**(a) To note the report**

**(b) To approve and endorse the levelling of the fine turf lawns principle and repair of the footpath leading to the pavilion and thereafter to recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee that it considers the funding options to deliver this £28,000 project.**

## **3. CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 The Croquet Club is an essential asset to the Parish, and every reasonable endeavour should be taken to safeguard its future and the Club's standing both locally and nationally. Its sporting value cannot be underestimated, offering an opportunity for able and less able players to participate in an outdoor pursuit.

3.2 The levelling of the fine turf lawns at Pages Park will allow croquet club members to support and increase leisure opportunities for all within our community.

**End.**