

Councillor Berry

Allow us to introduce ourselves. We are Gordon Fletcher and Cyd Smith, co-chair of the Leighton Linslade Sports Council representing 16 sports clubs in and around Leighton Linslade. This includes many that use or hire facilities from Leighton-Linslade Town Council including football at Astral park, Linslade tennis at Linslade Memorial Playing Fields and Croquet at Pages Park.

As you are aware because of the latest Covid - 19 lockdown all sports and organised physical activity have been stopped since November and this has resulted in many of our members who are residents of the town being unable to keep physically active. This can have an ongoing impact on mental health as well as physical wellbeing of the young and not so young in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.

The latest lockdown has also meant that many member clubs are struggling with limited or even no income in the last four months. This is on top of lost income as a result of the previous lockdowns in the spring and early summer last year. Many clubs fear that the lack of activity could result in reduced membership as some allow membership to lapse or in the case of youths move on or even stop activities all together.

We would like to ask that the Grounds Committee would kindly consider waiving the grounds/facilities hire fees for a period of a month or more in order to help re-establish the sports clubs that have been unable to meet during lockdown as a gesture to help rebuild the community spirit of Leighton Linslade.

The Sports Council is encouraging our member clubs to reach out to not only their lapsed members but new members in order to help re-establish the fantastic community feel that Leighton Linslade used to enjoy and was strongly facilitated by it's sports clubs that range from children's football to sports enjoyed by older residents including tennis, bowls and croquet.

We are happy to work with the council to provide any evidence of outreach to members to encourage sports return.

Regards

Gordon Fletcher and Cyd Smith

Co-chairs

Leighton Linslade and District Sports Council