

Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date: 6th September 2021

Title: Linslade Memorial Playing Field

Purpose of the Report:

To seek Member direction in respects of the potential relocation of the Multi Use Games Area facility.

Contact Officer:

Ian Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Corporate Objective/s	Town Council 5 Year Plan Objective no.38 seeks to maintain and enhance sporting provision within the parish	
Implications:		
Financial	Yes	Cost for external provider to relocate facility is £5-6,000, which can be met from earmarked reserves.
Human Resources	No	
Operational/Service delivery	No	
Procedural/Legal	No	
Risk/Health and Safety	No	
Environmental Aims	No	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

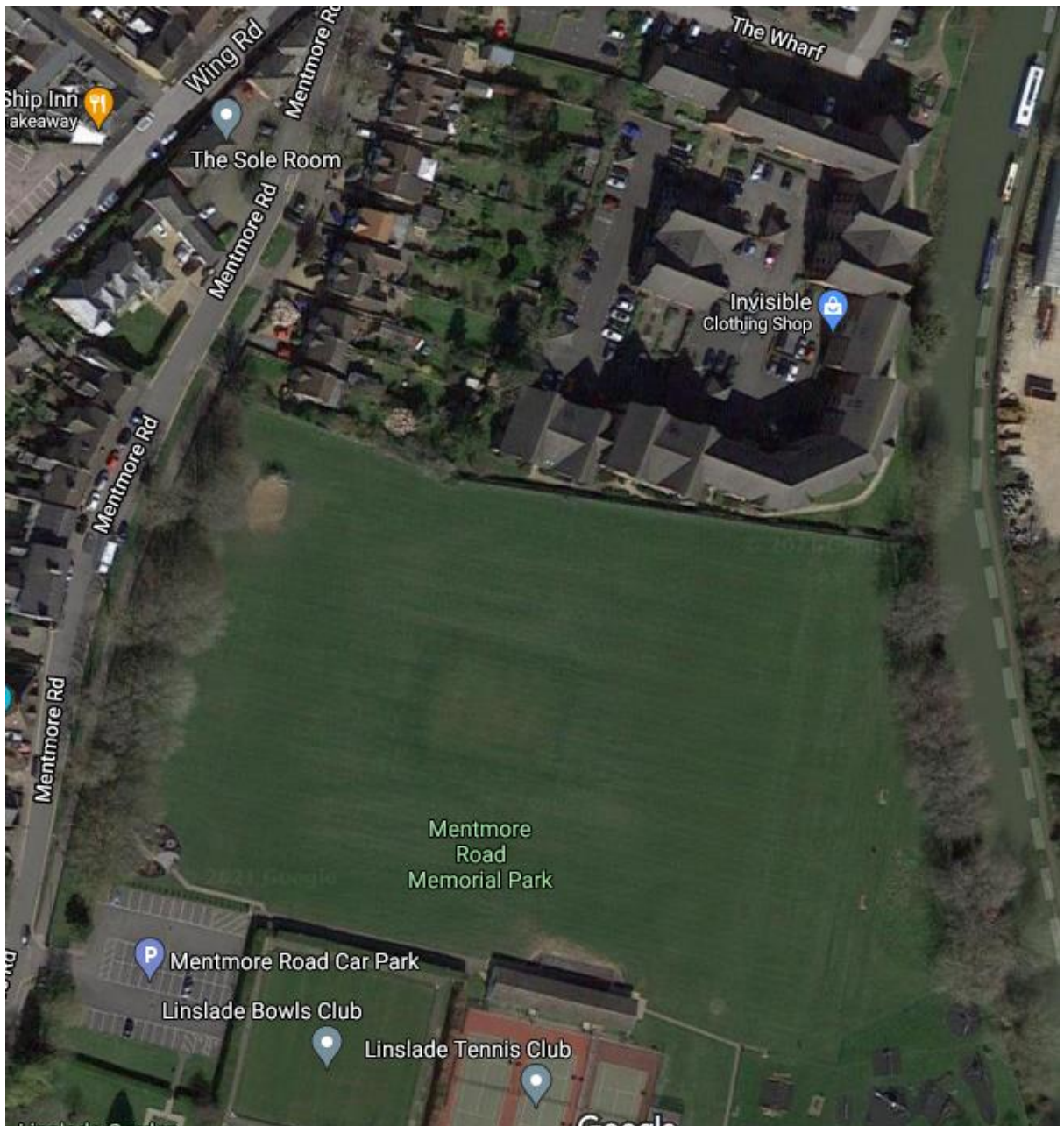
Should the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee be minded:-

- 1.1 To endorse the relocation of the Multi-Use Games Area within Linslade Memorial Playing Field and for the maximum cost of £6,000 to be met from the play area improvements budget (Future Projects earmarked reserve 9500/925 (Currently £62,655 available)).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was installed in its current location in Linslade Memorial Playing Field some years ago, following consultation and creation of a Masterplan for the park.

- 2.2 The siting of the facility was carefully considered to minimise impact on other park users and adjacent properties. Mitigation measures included the erection of a fence on the park's west boundary intending to prevent footballs from leaving the park and installing the tall mesh fence on the northern border.



- 2.3 As with all parks and open spaces, the playing field is used as originally intended for many purposes, including exercise, dog walking, informal ball play and other leisure/recreational uses.
- 2.4 The MUGA facility is popular and well-used by young people, meaning that informal ball play is more focused in one location, which can benefit other park users and surrounding residents.

- 2.5 The provision of the MUGA supports the Council's aspirations to provide great public open spaces with varied opportunities for sport and leisure and give excellent play facilities.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed that the facility remain in the park for the reasons outlined above but relocated to a different position to reduce the issues experienced by residents of nearby properties.
- 3.2 The relocation would be undertaken by external contractors and would cost a maximum of £6,000.
- 3.3 The proposed new location will be on the eastern side of the park, and it is believed that this site would minimise the issues experienced by nearby residents at present.
- 3.4 Consideration should also be given to removing the tall mesh link fencing as well as this may mean that football games are continued to be played even if the MUGA is moved.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Over time, it has become clear from communications with residents on Mentmore Road that there are fairly regular incidences of footballs landing in neighbouring gardens. Residents have expressed concern about potential damage or injury as well as the inconvenience of people then having to reclaim their ball from their property.
- 4.2 If Members are minded, the relocation of the MUGA will see this well-used facility staying within the park.

End.