

Chesham Town Council

Bill Richards
Town Clerk



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11th March 2019

Dear Councillor

I hereby give notice of a meeting of the **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, The Town Hall, Chesham, on

MONDAY 18th MARCH 2019 AT APPROXIMATELY 8.00PM

(i.e. immediately following the close of the Planning Committee meeting which is due to commence at 7.30pm)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18th February 2019.
4. To receive and consider the Minutes of:
 - a. *Elgiva Board of Management of the 11th March 2019 (to follow)*
5. Chiltern Hills Academy 3G Sports Pitch Update
6. Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre Update
7. Volunteer Fair
8. Use of Cemetery Chapel
9. Exclusion of the Public and the Press
10. Air Conditioning at the Elgiva

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Richards', written over a horizontal line.

Bill Richards
Town Clerk

Publication date: 11th March 2019



AGENDA ITEM NO: 5 – UPDATE OF 3G SPORTS PITCH AT CHILTERN HILLS ACADEMY

Reporting Officer: Bill Richards (01494 583824)

Summary

1. To receive a report from Kevin Patrick, the Chiltern Hills Academy Principal and Dr Mark Pegg in respect to progress on the Chiltern Hills Academy's proposal to provide an artificial sports pitch for the Academy and the community and to ascertain this Council's support.

Background Information

2. Dr Mark Pegg first presented the idea of the creation of a 3G artificial sports pitch to this Committee back in October 2014 and has periodically reported to the Council in the intervening years as the Chiltern Hills Academy was confirmed as the preferred site.
3. The Planning Committee has stated it *'supports the principle of the application but welcomes the District Council's commitment to thoroughly examine the possible effect of noise and floodlighting on residents'* at its meeting of the 14th January 2019.

Financial Implications

4. As outlined within the Report.

Strategic Objectives

5. Accords with the Council's Strategic Aim 1 - *'To enable residents to enjoy high quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents'*.

Equality Act Implications

6. Non applicable.

Detailed Consideration

7. **Attached** is a report from Dr Mark Pegg outlining developments thus far and a request to the Council that it:
- Provides £25k capital sum towards the £850 total project cost;
 - Take a seat on Chiltern Hills 3G's governing body drawn from Chiltern Hills Academy Governors, Local Clubs, the FA, local clubs and the local community.

Your Clerk has, of course, explained to Dr Pegg that no monies have been directly allocated from the Council to this scheme for 2019/20 budgets which have already been set. Mr Patrick and Dr Pegg would, nevertheless, like to engage the Council in respect to offering its support to the project with the possibility of a funding contribution when the facility is close to being built.

8. There is no question that the building of this pitch will be a valuable community asset though some Members have raised the importance of ensuring as much local, affordable usage as possible. With Mr Patrick and Dr Pegg in attendance, this will be a good opportunity for the Committee to raise questions on governance and administration of the facility as well as understanding further the financial and other issues outstanding before completion.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers its position on the 3G artificial pitch proposed for the Chiltern Hills Academy.

Chesham Town Council

continued . . .



<u>Councillor</u> <u>Circulation</u>
Councillor Emily Culverhouse
Councillor Peter Hudson
Councillor Jane MacBean (Chairman)
Councillor Tony Franks
Councillor Diana Varley
Councillor Qaser Chaudhry
Councillor Mohammad Fayyaz
Councillor Mohammad Bhatti
Councillor Nick Southworth
Councillor Roderick McCulloch (Vice Chairman)

Chesham Town Council
Chiltern Hills 3G All-Weather Pitch
Presentation to Town Councillors
March 2019

Overview

To support an active and healthy community, Chesham Town Council provides a wide range of open spaces, playing fields, sport and leisure facilities. Local schools and colleges also provide sports facilities our local community can use after school hours.

In their current Playing Pitch Strategy 2018-2036, South Bucks and Chiltern District Councils have recognised the strategic need for more investment in synthetic grass pitches in the Chilterns. A need is identified for 6 new 3G all-weather pitches in Chiltern District to meet demand from the local community.

Chiltern Hills Academy (CHA) is promoting a project to build an all-weather pitch on the school's premises to be used by the school and other local schools during school hours and after school hours, at weekends and in school holidays for use by the local community including boys, girls, men and women of all ages and team sports clubs such as Chesham Utd, Chiltern Athletic and Chesham Stags

The project has gained support from the Football Association, the Premier League, the Football Foundation and England Rugby. The Governors of the Academy will also make a major financial contribution and will provide the land for the pitch on the school campus. There will also be a local appeal for funds. This is a high profile major external investment in our community which will make a huge difference to sport for all. It has the support of Sport England and has been submitted for planning permission from Chiltern District Council

To support this substantial contribution, the funders would like to see some tangible local support for the project to close the final funding gap. They will not provide 100% of the cost because they would like to see tangible local community involvement and commitment through a financial contribution – this is modest and includes representation on the governance of the project to represent local people through continued community use.

The Proposal**Chesham Town council are invited to agree to:**

- Provide £25k capital sum towards the £850 total project cost;
- Take a seat on Chiltern Hills 3G's governing body drawn from Chiltern Hills Academy Governors, Local Clubs, the FA, local clubs and the local community.

Background

Football and Rugby are the best supported team sports locally. Unfortunately, in the British climate they are frequently disrupted during winter months – pitches are muddy or frozen and unfit. Even in a mild winter, several weeks of sport are missed and it has become modern practice across the UK and in the European Community for communities to provide all-weather surfaces. Every week in

Chiltern District, more than 200 teams play football and rugby, but our District is the only one in this region with no all-weather pitch to train or play on.

An all-weather sports pitch has become a normal part of a modern community. Across Europe, most communities have some provision typically at least one public access floodlit synthetic turf pitch where everyone can play outdoors all year round. In Europe these are often funded with support from the European Union as part of regional development and is typically associated with a stadium, a social club, and other sports and fitness facilities such as a gymnasium, tennis courts and swimming pool. External funding is key. In the UK, major funders of all-weather pitches are the FA through the Football Foundation and England Rugby. Colleges and Schools and England Hockey also support construction of all-weather pitches, as do professional and semi-professional football teams.

The Chiltern Hills 3G Project - concept, feasibility and approval

Pressure on land with limited scope for development, schools are often the best strategic locations for all-weather pitches, because they offer suitable open spaces, demand from the pupils themselves, car parking and good access. There is an excellent fit with local demand and helps to achieve maximum utilisation of the resource. The school and neighbouring schools have access from 9am -4pm on weekdays and the community has access at other times typically from 5pm - 10pm on weekdays, at weekends and school holidays.

Advances in materials have enabled hard wearing all-weather surfaces 'the carpet' with plastic blades that look and feel like natural grass dressed with rubber 'crumb' to absorb impact. The surface is designed for the ball to bounce and roll just like the real thing. An 'shock pad' – an underlay beneath the carpet adds further cushioning to the pitch's characteristics and helps reduce the risk of injury. The acronym 3G stands for 3rd generation synthetic turf. The floodlighting solution will limit light pollution and discrete green fencing keeps the facility secure and minimises visual intrusion. The pitch can be laid out flexibly for full size games and many combinations of multiple pitches for simultaneous use by, for example, mini-leagues.

Neighbouring districts have excellent modern examples – Berko Astro at Ashlyn's School in Berkhamsted and Amersham & Wycombe College in Flackwell Heath. Chiltern District has none and it will be a considerable and prestigious achievement to be the first locality in the Chilterns to host a modern state of the art facility.

The Football Association and England Rugby want to use the Chiltern Hills 3G pitch to boost their game at the grassroots. The FA is, for example, keen to see more women players, more opportunities for disabled players and to grow walking football for older players. England Rugby want to meet the need for mini rugby and for all-weather training. The programme of usage offers some periods for the disadvantaged. We now have the serious prospect that, for the first time in the Chilterns, girls, boys, and players of all ages will be running out and kicking balls on a fabulous state of the art facility they can use all day in every season whatever the weather.

Chiltern Hills Academy (CHA) have prepared a well organised case for Chiltern Hills 3G - a full-size public access all-weather pitch on the school campus. CHA has committed considerable time and effort to assess the need, engage with local stakeholders, assess local impact and produce a well-argued commercially viable case to meet the exacting requirements of the major funders. It has a suitable location next to existing changing and toilet facilities to minimise ancillary costs. It has gained Sport England support because it minimises the impact on existing pitches. Only one tennis court will need to be relocated. For safeguarding the site will be fenced and gated to maintain secure access separately from the school as and when required.

Impressed by the case made, the FA have worked with CHA using approved professional consultants to progress the project, including a feasibility study addressing all the necessary site investigations, environmental requirements and most important the long-term usage and commercial viability of the project. They are satisfied this is a robust project and have given their support. A planning application has been made to Chiltern District Council Planning Committee.

Project funding, construction and future use

The capital cost is some £850,000, to be funded through contributions from multiple providers including CHA Governors, the Football Foundation, the Football Association and the Premier League. England Rugby are providing a contribution towards the shock pad such that the new facility is good for rugby training and mini-rugby games although it is not large enough for adult rugby games.

There will also be a public appeal in 2019 to raise a financial contribution from CHA pupils, from local players and clubs including Chesham Utd Ladies and Youth Teams, Chiltern Athletic and Chesham Stags and from the wider local community who want to see world class facilities in our community - to make it happen and then to care for it over the longer term.

If the planning application is successful, it is proposed that construction of the Chiltern Hills 3G pitch will commence at the end of 2019 to be completed in spring 2020, with the whole facility to be tested in the summer and fully up and running for the start of the 2020-21 season.

Longer term, fees for use of the pitch are set to be affordable, there will be sessions available for the disadvantaged and the project will generate the money it needs to maintain the facility and to set funds aside for long term replacement of the surface which is hard wearing and durable but has a finite life.

Conclusion

This is the first really significant contribution, a high-profile national investment in our local community and this inward funding will have major benefits for sport. It will be a step change in the way we play sport locally, it be open for all, for everyone in our community to use. It will be financially viable and sustainable and will include affordable access. During the planning and feasibility stage it is very clear that this is a popular and well supported initiative. It is easy to see the enthusiasm everyone has for this project, the commitment to get it funded and built and the very real desire to have use of the new facility.

There has been a great deal of detailed research and consultation with local players and clubs and other interested parties to engage with them, understand their needs and mobilise their support. CHA has shown that the project meets a very real need; it will be fully used by the local community and it will be financially viable.

Launch event

To recognise their important contribution, councillors will be invited to the opening event. This is a prestigious moment in Chesham's history – national recognition by important public sporting bodies and Sport England. We aim to invite a premier league player or similar VIP to open Chiltern Hills 3G, this is a strong public relations opportunity, a very popular thing – money well invested in a facility open for use by the whole of our community, of boys, girls, men, women, from the very young to our seniors. The Council's name and coat of arms will be shown prominently with the other funders on the signboard and there will be continuing representation on the governance with financial risk to the Authority.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6 - CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE

Reporting Officer: Stephen Pearson (01494 583825)

Summary

1. To consider the financial report for the eleven months of 2018/19.

Background Information

2. At the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th December 2007, it was resolved that: *'the Officers, in consultation with the Friends of Chesham Moor Swim & Gym, produce a five year business plan and that there be regular monitoring reports to each Recreation and the Arts Committee Meetings.'* (Minute No.38).

Financial Implications

3. As outlined within the report.

Equality Act Implications

4. Non applicable.

Strategic Objectives

5. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1b – *'The Moor Gym & Swim, with its outdoor pool, ball courts and gym, is a unique facility which provides family friendly leisure and fitness opportunities in a rural setting. It will be maintained and enhanced wherever possible in an environmentally friendly way.'*

Detailed Consideration

6. The February closedown has yet to be completed but provisional the two major income stream figures are shown below. The membership takings (**excluding** VAT) are detailed in the table below. However it must be noted that the monthly and annual gym memberships include **free swimming and free tennis** and some members may take up membership purely for swimming.

	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
April	9,540	12,390	13,232	13,808	13,904
May	9,964	11,044	13,560	12,485	13,560
June	11,300	13,502	12,189	12,283	13,046
July	12,148	12,369	11,516	14,363	15,438
August	8,620	11,166	12,006	12,546	11,785

September	9,462	10,943	12,834	11,067	12,382
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£	£	£	£	£
October	9,754	9,429	11,196	11,766	12,562
November	9,366	10,350	11,947	10,913	12,638
December	9,089	11,113	10,972	10,564	12,241
January	12,509	12,106	14,834	14,720	14,149
February	9,740	9,614	10,822	10,828	11,977*
March	11,574	12,054	12,202	12,657	
*TOTAL	<u>122,866</u>	<u>136,080</u>	<u>147,310</u>	<u>148,000</u>	<u>143,682</u>

*Provisional

7. The above gym figures show an increase of just over 6.1% (£8,339) when comparing the eleven months of 2018/19 against that of 2017/18. In line with the Internal Auditor's report, the number of new Members and gym visits are being included within this report and are shown below:

	Annual	Monthly	Daily	10 gym	Total
January 2018	1	52	6	3	62
February	1	31	10	2	44
March	1	42	12	0	55
April	3	50	17	1	71
May	3	64	3	2	72
June	4	67	5	1	77
July	2	107	15	1	125
August	0	49	7	0	56
September	4	54	12	5	75
October	1	39	10	3	53
November	1	21	10	0	32
December	1	4	9	0	14
January 2019	4	57	25	4	90
February	0	39	9	0	48
Total	26	676	150	22	874

Total gym visits: January **2,118** February **2,378** March **2,198** April **2,400** May **2,242** June **2,094**, July, **2,118** August, **2,253** , September **2,009**, October **2,100**, November **2,182**, December **1,792** and January **2,418**.

8. Swimming income has done very well due to the long spell of good weather rising from £81k last year to £106.3k this year for the eleven months ended 28th February 2019.
9. The major capital and renewals & repair investment programme was budgeted at £20,600 for 2018/19 but this was increased during the recent budget setting to £40,600 to include £20k for upgrading the multi-courts. Following on from this Committee's agreement to carry out the resurfacing at the February meeting, the Finance Committee, at its meeting

held on the 4th March agreed to put the project on hold until the new financial year when it will be reconsidered.

Recommendation

That the Gym and Swim financial report be noted.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7 - VOLUNTEER CHESHAM

Reporting Officers: Kathryn Graves (01494 583798)

Summary

1. To consider whether a Chesham Volunteer event should be held in 2019 and what format it should take.

Background Information

2. The first Volunteer Chesham event was held by then Town Mayor, Cllr Peter Hudson, on 12th September 2015 at Chesham Town Hall. The aim was to bring potential volunteers and voluntary organisations together under one roof.
3. Volunteer Chesham was next held on the 30th September 2017 with organisation by then Mayor, Cllr Emily Culverhouse and administrative support from officers. It was held at Chesham Town Hall.
4. Last year, Volunteer Chesham was held on the 27th October at Broadway Baptist Church, and was organised by the Mayor, Cllr Jane MacBean and officers.

Financial Implications

5. If the event is held at a venue not owned by the Town Council, there may be a hire charge.

Strategic Objectives

6. Volunteer Chesham meets the Strategic Objective *'To help create a socially inclusive and caring community, which embraces all its residents equally, seeking to develop their well being, knowledge, understanding, and mutual co operation.'*

Equality Act Implications

7. The accessibility of any venue will be considered.

Detailed Consideration

8. At the 2018 event, we asked attending voluntary organisations for their feedback on the event. Of those who responded, 92% were satisfied with the organisation of the event and 83% were able to capture details of potential volunteers, whilst 55% had direct sign-ups from new volunteers on the day.

9. The event was moved from the Town Hall to the Broadway Baptist Church so that all exhibitors could be present on one floor, as exhibitors on the first floor at the Town Hall felt they had much lower footfall than those on the ground floor. Both the Baptist Church and the Town Hall are slightly set back from the High Street, which some voluntary groups felt was a disadvantage to attracting passers-by. Thirty-five groups attended the 2018 event and feedback was received from some groups that this made the layout too cramped.
10. A number of groups suggested that it would be better to hold the event in the High Street to provide more space and be highly visible to the public. Your officers believe that it would be possible to hold the event in the High Street in conjunction with a general Saturday market, when the road is closed. However, this would make the event weather-dependent and probably necessitate holding it during the summer months. The outdoor venue would also require the voluntary groups to provide their own tables and gazebos, whereas these were previously provided with the indoor venues.

Recommendations

- (i) **That the Committee decides whether to hold a Volunteer Chesham event in 2019.**
- (ii) **That the Committee offers its views on a potential change of venue for future Volunteer Chesham events.**

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8 – USE OF CEMETERY CHAPEL

Reporting Officer: Bill Richards (01494 583824)

Summary

1. To approve the use of the Chapel in the Cemetery for business purposes.

Background Information

2. The Chapel has been not hired out for use for two years due to its current condition.
3. At the Recreation and Arts Committee meeting of the 18th February 2019, it was resolved that *‘the principle of a change of use for the Cemetery Chapel be agreed but this be subject to a further report outlining the detailed plans of any prospective hirers.’* (Min No. 60)

Financial Implications

4. As outlined within the Report.

Strategic Objectives

5. Accords with the Council’s Strategic Aim 1 - *‘To enable residents to enjoy high quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents’.*

Equality Act Implications

6. Non applicable.

Detailed Consideration

7. As reported at the last Recreation and Arts Committee meeting, since April 2014, the Chapel has only been hired out 9 times and following a complaint in regards to its condition from the last hirer in February 2017, it has not been offered as a facility to the public.
8. At the February Committee meeting, Members were informed that an approach has been made by a local resident (who already runs a local business) to utilise the facility to create a hub for local youth projects within the community; to include empowerment workshops, careers workshops and an arts based youth community with other facilitators (photography / dance / music / drama /choir /arts) but using the chapel as the working space. She has suggested she would manage the space

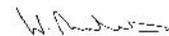
and the everyday 'inventory' and actions. She envisages that the business from the space will include all her self-employed administration and services. She would like to have the opportunity to use the space for small local events as and when they come into fruition.

9. Following the last meeting, the Clerk has now met with the prospective hirer where she was asked to put in writing more detailed proposals. As can be seen as **attached**, this has duly been done. The hirer is keen to emphasise that she does not feel she is able to commit to a weekly timetable at the moment nor commit to a long-term contract. However she fully understands officers' view that it would not be appropriate for her clients to drive into the cemetery. It was also felt during the discussion that some of the possible activities, such as mediation and yoga, would be almost complementary to a place of reflection and contemplation. In any event, no planned activities would be noisy and be in contrast to the cemetery's prime purpose as a place of rest. Moreover, if the chapel was used regularly then it might deter some anti-social behaviour if clients are regularly coming to and from the building.
10. No possible hirer fee has been mooted at this time and it is proposed this is negotiated by officers since no real precedent exists. Officers have however managed to negotiate a regular block booking for the newly renovated Codmore Pavilion which has seen the relocation of a martial arts class from the Gym and Swim Centre thus freeing the latter up for further hires while getting income and usage into Codmore Pavilion. It is proposed that once these classes is established and reviewed, the fees and charges for a more permanent hire will be brought back to this Committee for consideration and therefore it is suggested that the same principle be applied to this hire i.e. a mutually agreed fee for a limited time to be reviewed after the hirer has established herself within the chapel.
11. Members may also want to consider the matter of the coffin bier in the chapel. This will need to be removed if this proposal is accepted. Officers are minded to offer it to a local museum but it is possible there is some resale value in the item.

Recommendation

1. That the Committee agree to the operation of the Chapel as a business and a community arts base on a trial basis with the length of the trial and fees to be delegated to officers for determination.

2. That the Committee recommends whether it wishes for officers to try and sell the coffin bier before offering to a museum.



**Bill Richards
Town Clerk**

Proposal of Chapel Use

Samantha Vale

I am a self employed creative and entrepreneur with a portfolio career. I have been looking for a work 'hub' for some time and the existing Chapel has been brought to my attention as a space for which to grow my projects.

I would be using the space primarily for business administration and services through my company DANCE HUB – a dance based platform for training and resources and also my other work as a personal coach , mentor and writer.

The large chapel space would be used primarily for personal choreography projects and dance services; individual and groups.

Community:

The space would also ultimately be home to a community youth arts project I am in the planning stages of called JIJIVISHA. Exploring performance arts as a platform and using local professionals to contribute their skillset and potentially provide mentorship. When this is further in development I foresee a rehearsal and creative session with young people potentially one evening weekly.

I currently run two weekly adult dance classes within the community that would move into the Chapel which are Monday evenings. Depending on the viability of the space and personal scheduling there is scope to offer a range of inclusive dance based classes in the future.

There is potential to extend the chapel usage to a select handful of external practitioners to offer meditation and yoga classes, if the space is viable for them due to limited amenities and access. These would likely be evening or weekend based classes around my schedule.

I would like to explore utilising the chapel as an exhibition space for local artists and photographers and open the space up to be used for workshops and small events.

After consideration at this stage I feel unable to commit to a weekly timetable of classes, as it would be an inefficient demonstration of usage, as further discussions with external practitioners need to take place. A proposal prior to this would be purely speculative.

My estimated personal weekly usage would be Monday – Friday 9am-3pm with two evening sessions between 7-9pm. Weekends would be utilised intermittently for events and workshops.