



# HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

## Lion Green football pitch surface

### Background:

In 2018 Council invested in new football goals on Lion Green. On a recent site inspection with the Chairman of Amenities and Town Clerk it was noted that the football playing surface is unsightly and the goals are unplayable for significant amounts of time due to the deep ruts/grooves at each goal mouth, which fill with water and then freeze (depending on the weather) as well as the main pitch area being largely bare of grass. The Town Hall has had a number of comments about this.

Filling in the ruts with soil and re-seeding requires drier weather and for the areas to be fenced off pending the grass growing. All of which will be quickly undone once the pitch dries up and people start using it again. We have investigated the cost of resurfacing the pitches with an artificial surface or grass, and other options.

In the past, the Committee deemed installing a new surface too expensive. However, there is now funding available to the Council which we might be able to put towards a new surface. This would either come from a mixture of s106 money from Waverley and Neighbourhood CIL funds, or solely from Neighbourhood CIL funds.

### Options for artificial surfaces:

**Stadia 24 4g sports grass** is a 4th generation sports product with a unique pile and supporting thatch which requires no abrasive, intrusive infill and is completely maintenance free save for the removal of debris. This is used for local authority and school football pitches and is probably over the top for Lion Green. It comes with an 8 year warranty

**Sports carpet surface** – senior WBC officer has advised that in her experience these need to be replaced every 4/5 years. This comes with a 5 year guarantee.

**Artificial grass** – inexpensive to purchase but same WBC officer has advised it requires a lot of maintenance long term which would have to be funded by the Town Council. The installation comes with a 1 year guarantee.

**Type 3 polymeric surface** – both the supplier and WBC officer have suggested this is the best solution although for different reasons. Supplier because it is the lowest long term maintenance surface. WBC officer because it has the potential to be used as more than a football surface. Children could play other ball games on it (tennis, netball, basketball) with the simple addition of white lines. This comes with a 5 year guarantee.

### Alternative options:

- Remove the goal posts & fence off the area, aerate, rotovate, top dress, overseed and fertilise, and not replace the goals. However, it is clear the goals are a real community asset and are widely used;
- Make good the eroded surface (as above), purchase goal posts with wheels and move on a regular basis throughout the year to prevent future damage. The downside to this is that the



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goals could be stolen or moved by users to an unsuitable location. In any event, it will require two officers to go to Lion Green every few weeks to move them about.

## Funding:

Waverley Borough Council has £26,000 in s106 funds earmarked for the Lion Green playground. One officer has indicated that installing a playing pitch **may** be an acceptable use of this funding, but another thinks it should be used for the children’s playground **only**. As such, WBC will not commit themselves until we have applied for the funding. Alternatively, the project could be funded entirely by Neighbourhood CIL once the Council’s CIL pot has reached the relevant amount. Any cost over £25,000 incurred by the Town Council will be subject to the formal tender process as set out in the Council’s Financial Regulations.

## **Installing artificial surface**

The polymeric surface would be WBC’s preference because of its potential to be used as a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) as it would better satisfy the expenditure under the CIL regulations. If the committee agreed an alternative surface, the Council **could** be at risk from WBC clawing back the funds.

A polymeric surface would also be easier to maintain and clean than an artificial grass surface. As there is no intention to enclose the football pitch so it would not be protected from dogs fouling or littering. Excepting the artificial grass that we are advised is least appropriate, all artificial grass options have a similar cost (approx. £42,000) and would leave HTC facing a net cost of approximately £16,000, should WBC agree to us using the £26,000 s106 funds.

	Option	Total cost
Supplier 1 Eibe	Stadia 24 4g sports grass	£41,000
Supplier 2 VitaPlay	Artificial grass	£18,870
Supplier 3 Playsafe (option 1)	Sports Carpet surface	£41,375
Supplier 3 Playsafe (option 2)	Type 3 polymeric surface	£42,571

## **Remove and/or replace with wheeled goals and reseed area**

There is money available from 21/22 & 22/23 play equipment capital expenditure which could fund wheeled goals and the repair of the existing surface could be paid from the balance held in the external maintenance ear marked reserve. We are waiting for a quote to fence off the existing surface whilst the reseeded area grows back.

Commercial Grounds Care	Remove goals and reseed	£1,100
Online	Purchase wheeled goals	£1,500

The committee is asked to make one of the following recommendations to Council

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** The committee approves the installation of the type 3 polymeric surface on Lion Green. The funding to come from S106 (if WBC agree) and Neighbourhood CIL or entirely from Neighbourhood CIL once we have received enough to cover the cost.



APPENDIX 7

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**RECOMMENDATION 2:** The committee approves the installation of an agreed artificial surface, the funding of which is put into the budget for 23/24.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** The committee approves the purchase of wheeled football goals and the repair of the surface, to be paid for by unspent budget lines from 21/22 and this option to be review in twelve months.