

Appendix 1

Report on further improvements to sports field

1.0 Purpose of report

To propose actions to continue improvements to the sports field.

2.0 Introduction

In October 2013 a report was published by Total Turf solutions on the condition of the sports field and suggested improvements. Other than general maintenance, weedkilling and topping up drainage trenches the recommendations in the report were not implemented.

Council considered a report on the sports field at its meeting in January 2022. The report considered the installation of a cricket mat and improvements to the sports field. The report recommended setting up a working group to consider improvements. Subsequently an Environment group has been established, which includes matters relative to the sports field.

3.0 Current position

Since the report in 2022 improvements to the sports field have been implemented. These include;-

2023/24	Application of selective weed control Scarify the pitches in 2 directions using Koro FTM fitted with scarification rotor Applied 160 tonnes of approved medium/fine sand Vertidrain/Verti-quake to carry out deep aeration and decompaction Dragmat or brush to integrate sand Applied pre-seeder fertiliser at 35g/m ²
2024/25	Same process was carried out as above.

A significant phase of these improvements has been thorough scarification and spiking of the whole area. There is no doubt that these works have improved the playing surface, they have not addressed improvements to the drainage, which was a key component of the Total turf solutions report in 2013.

A meeting took place in August between the Parish Clerk, Councillor Askew and Arc ground care, who have been carrying out work to improve the field. The conclusion to the meeting was that there is no need to continue with scarification and spiking but to address improvements to the drainage. The soil is heavy clay and holds surface water in periods of heavy rain.

Arc are suggesting that drainage is improved by adding gravel bands to link to the existing drainage system. The recommendations and quote for carrying out works is below. It should be noted that this work would be in two phases in years 2025/26 and 2026/27.

4.0. Financial implications.

Following the 2022 report Council agreed to include £25k for improvements
However the Council was able to use s106 and CIL monies as noted in Table 1.

Table 1

The field enhancement work in 2023 was funded by s106 open space allocation for Honeybourne.	£24,249.91
The field enhancement work in 2024 was funded by CIL monies received from WDC for Owl Homes Development.	£27,315.00

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For the first phase of the installation of gravel bands in 2025 see the quote from Arc below which is for doing half of the playing field (8,000 m²)

Quotation:

Install gravel bands @1m centres based on 8000m². This is based on doing half of the playing field in spring 2025 using £25000.00 of earmarked reserved. To cover for the transportation and the disposal of the soil to use CiL monies.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gravel bands @ 1m centres, 300mm deep x 50mm wide, backfilled with 2 – 6mm gravel to 100mm of the surface and topped off with sports sand.Overseed the areaApply fertilizer to the areaStockpile the arisings on site	£24,750.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transportation cost for material and machinery	£ 575.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To dispose 260t of soil stockpiled off site	£ 4550.00
Total	£29,875.00

The Council will use £25000.00 of earmarked reserve which was allocated for the field improvement. The remainder will come from CIL monies which are remaining in our budget. This would comply with WDC's requirement to use CIL for infrastructure improvements.

Should Council agree to the recommendation to install gravel bands to assist the drainage over a two year period, consideration can be given to ongoing financial requirements for years 2027/28 onwards.

5.0. Procurement.

ARC are a specialist contractor who have completed all the work so far to a satisfactory standard. They are an experienced contractor for whom we have excellent references. They have completed similar drainage works at B'ham City's training ground last year. As such it would not be sensible to try to find alternative suppliers to continue this improvement work. In fact finding any other contractor prepared to quote has proved very difficult. As the time window for completing the work is limited a resolution needs to be passed at February's PC meeting.

6.0. Recommendations

That Council agrees to the recommendations in Arc's report to install gravel bands to the sports field in two phases in financial years 2025/26 & 2026/27. There is currently no financial provision for 2026/27.