

## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Monday 10 July 2023**

### **Agenda Item 7.1**

#### **TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE COUNCIL'S ESTATES**

##### **1.0 Summary**

1.1 This report sets out the current position with the Council's Estates.

##### Victoria Pleasure Ground and skatepark

Town Councillors and staff are aware the play area needs upgrading. Money has been set aside in 2023/24. It is therefore hoped that with further funding obtained for 2024/25, and community infrastructure levy/developer contributions, the play area will be able to be upgraded in 2024/25.

Due to vandalism a new skate park sign has been installed and two new litter bins ordered.

A report was received from the Sussex Cricket Foundation and a meeting held with the Grounds Team and Estates & Facilities Manager to talk through the findings. A number of recommendations were offered to improve the current ground conditions, which the Head Groundsman had already started to take on board from the initial visit. Unfortunately due to weather and fixtures being called off, the cricket season had not started well despite our Grounds team undertaking preparations.

A quote has been obtained for the replacement of the nets on the practice cricket area - £1,975 plus VAT. The ground was re-laid and levelled in February 2023 to which the Cricket Club contributed. Due to budget constraints, an application will be made for grant funding to fund the cost of the new nets.

Further investigation is required with the drainage issues near to the skate park.

##### Hempstead Lane Play Area and Hempstead Meadows LNR

Zip line is showing signs of wood rot. Grounds team will continue to monitor but Estates & Facilities Manager looking into costings for a steel replacement which would have a longer lifespan.

##### Rocks Park Play Area

Nothing new to report.

##### Snatts Road Cemetery

Nothing new to report.

##### West Park Recreation ground and WPLNR

Nothing new to report.

##### Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Nothing further to add at present.

##### Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing new to report.

### Luxford field and play area.

Very buried vision panel vandalised resulting in small plastic balls spilling out. Grounds team have cleared these up and Estates & Facilities Manager looking into replacement options as very costly. This has also been reported on the DISC app to Sussex Police.

### Woodlands

Ash die back works booked in Boothland and Nightingale Woods wk beginning 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### Equipment & Vehicles

We are starting to explore options for the replacement of one of the Ground vehicles through a lease agreement. Further details will be presented to members once we have the information available.

### Street Furniture & Lighting

Ongoing repairs are being addressed through a schedule of work managed by East Sussex Highways.

### Other

Two members of the Grounds team have undertaken a full day's ROSPA training on play safety and RPII exam to obtain an RPII Certificate of Competence.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: James Hollingdale