

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 1 September 2026

Agenda Item 8.1

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE APPLICATION FOR A NEW 3G PITCH

1.0 Summary

1.1 In preparation for the full submission to The Football Foundation this autumn for a new 3G pitch at Victoria Pleasure Ground, Uckfield Town Council continues to work with appointed consultants to deliver two key workstreams:

- (i) Preparation of the full planning application to the local planning authority (being prepared by Surfacing Standards Ltd);
- (ii) Preparation of the full funding application to the Football Foundation (being prepared by SLPC Consulting Ltd);

(i) Preparation of the full planning application

Detailed site assessments, studies and investigations have been undertaken to assess the ground conditions, utilities, local ecology, noise and lighting impacts. A draft planning application has been prepared and reviewed by officers, prior to its anticipated submission to the local planning authority (Wealden District Council), early September.

The Estates Manager has been working with the consultants and a local Ecologist to consider the provision of BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) offset onsite. A baseline survey is in progress and will form part of the planning application.

(ii) Preparation of the full funding application

Stakeholder engagement sessions commenced in the Spring with the main service users (and local football clubs). A meeting also took place with Uckfield College to understand the current usage and charging schedule for the 3G Pitch managed by Uckfield Leisure Centre (Freedom Leisure). All parties understand the need to ensure the two facilities complement each other. There is evidence of enough demand to meet the needs of both, in addition to the newly created facilities at Hellingly (Wealden Sports Hub).

This application requires wider consultation with key community groups, local schools etc, which will commence after the submission of the planning application.

A draft pricing schedule has been prepared alongside a usage timetable for the week, and this will be presented alongside a detailed project plan for delivery of the project.

The Football Foundation wishes to see how delivery of the project can support a number of hard to reach communities and groups, and tackle inequalities (e.g. ensuring equal access to women and girls, disabilities, lower-socio economic groups, and diverse ethnic communities).

The full application will also seek to ensure the preparation of service level

agreements with partner clubs and the establishment of a steering group to oversee the operations of the site.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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