



Report of the Chief Recreation Officer

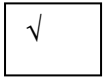
Executive Board

Date: 14 November 2007

Subject: Tinshill Recreation Ground

Electoral Wards Affected:

Adel and Wharfedale



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

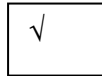
Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In



Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)



Executive Summary

As part of the PFI development at Ralph Thoresby School, Tinshill Recreation Ground will have a 1.8m high fence installed around the top two playing fields on completion of the drainage works to the pitches.

These pitches will be accessed by Ralph Thoresby School through a Service Level Agreement giving them exclusive use during the school day (08:00 – 18:00) in term time. Outside of the school usage time, the fence around the top two pitches will remain open for informal usage and will be formally allocated to local community teams as their home ground on an annual hire basis. The pitches will be maintained by a Parks and Countryside on site gardener.

A pilot project is being developed to increase access to the sports facilities at Ralph Thoresby School and Tinshill Recreation Ground and to address issues around players parking and changing near residential properties.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 As requested at Executive Board on the 17 October 2007, this report is to inform Members of the access arrangements to two of the six football pitches for school use, informal recreation and local community football teams, an update on the progress relating to the pilot project relating to the pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground, the car parking and changing facilities at Ralph Thoresby School and the full time allocation of an on site gardener at Tinshill Recreation Ground.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Ralph Thoresby School, as part of the PFI development, will be making an area of school land available to Leeds City Council for the Holt Park redevelopment proposal. As a result of this loss, Ralph Thoresby School will require access to two of the six pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground during the school day (8.00am – 18.00pm) during the school term (38 weeks per year) to enable them to deliver their sports curriculum.
- 2.2 All of the pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground (4 senior football, 1 junior football and 1 rugby) are currently in the process of being improved to Sport England standards to improve sports facilities for the school and for local community clubs and teams who are allocated to the pitches through the seasonal allocation process managed by Parks and Countryside.
- 2.3 It has now been agreed, through Executive Board, that a 1.8m high fence is to be installed around the top two pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground with four pedestrian access gates and a maintenance access gate.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The main issues are the access arrangements for the school, local clubs and teams and for informal recreation use. There is also an issue with local perception of the loss of green space.
- 3.2 There have been several complaints from residents living at Raynel Way, at the southern end of the site, relating to car parking issues and players changing in cars and on the pitches. When the new school was constructed, outdoor changing facilities were constructed to be specifically used for outdoor recreation both within the school and at Tinshill Recreation Ground. In order to address the issues raised by residents, a pilot project is being developed to actively promote access to the car park and changing facilities at the school for clubs/teams playing on Tinshill Rec. It is proposed that a contact number will be advertised at the school and the Recreation Ground to promote access to the newly improved facilities.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 The school will access the two fenced pitches exclusively during the school day, 08:00 – 18:00, through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The playing fields remain in the control of the Council and will continue to be managed and allocated by the Parks and Countryside Service.
- 4.2 When the school is using the pitches, the pedestrian gates will be locked and when the lesson(s) are completed for the day the SLA states that the gates must be left open by the school.
- 4.3 There will be an on site Parks and Countryside gardener allocated to Tinshill Recreation Ground who will be responsible for getting the pitches ready prior to school use and ensuring that all the pitches on site are maintained to the highest quality possible. The Parks and Countryside will also monitor the opening and closing of the gates at the end of the school day and at weekends.
- 4.4 Local clubs and teams will be able to access any of the six pitches on site through the usual Parks and Countryside allocations process. Access to the fenced pitches

will not be an issue as the gates will be open at evenings and weekends, which will ensure access for informal use by the community.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 The school have now signed the SLA and agreed to the terms and conditions within.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The two fenced pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground will have school use during the school day (8.00 am – 18.00 pm), during school term time (38 weeks per year), where the gates will be locked. Outside of this time (evenings and weekends), the land will be available to all for active recreation. In addition, clubs and team will be able to access car parking and changing facilities at Ralph Thoresby School through the development of a pilot project to increase access to PFI school facilities.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Executive Board are requested to note the contents of this report and agree to:-

- The substantial improvements to the pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground
- The letting of the pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground through the Parks and Countryside annual allocation process
- The allocation of an on site gardener to Tinshill Recreation Ground
- The development of the pilot project for allocations to the changing facilities and car parking at Ralph Thoresby School and the pitches at Tinshill Recreation Ground.