

Agenda Item: Recreation Costs

Meeting Date: Monday, 30th June 2025

Contact Officer: Operations Manager

Background

At the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on the 12th May, officers submitted a report to Members on the cost of cricket provision to Witney Town Council. These costs were not inclusive of machinery or football renovations that benefited the cricket pitch. Members asked that full costs be detailed and to include the cost of football pitch provision.

Current Situation

The total cost for football renovations and ongoing maintenance has been calculated from the 2023-24 season. The figures below are the total annual running costs of each site; the income received per site and the percentage that income covers those annual running costs.

Site	Total Annual Cost	Income received for the 2023-24 season	The percentage of income covers maintenance costs
West Witney	£22,268.1 1	£6,627.42	29.76%
Burwell	£14,533.9 5	£6,366.93	43.81%
Leys	£9,295.13	£2,570.38	27.65%
King Georges	£5,346.86	£1,551.17	29.01%
Total	£51,444.0 5	£17,115.90	33.27%

The figures are adjusted below to include cricket maintenance and income for West Witney Sports Ground.

Site	Total Annual Cost	Income received for the 2023-24 season	The percentage of income covers maintenance costs
West Witney	£24,178.34	£8,627.42	35.68%

The figures are all-encompassing of all the Council's costs to maintain and prepare the fields that sports teams play on, including machinery depreciation. It should also be noted that the same maintenance costs above benefit the recreational purposes of the grounds, as they are not exclusively used for football.

The subsidised cost for football is around 70% except for football played at Burwell Recreation ground. Burwell is heavily used due to its 3 x 11aside pitches and inset pitches. This is starting to wear out the ground and damage the grass sward, which is why it is essential to bring more pitches online and maintain investment in the council's current pitches.

A full breakdown of costs is attached as a confidential appendix to this report.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – Junior football focuses on ensuring all young players have equal opportunities to participate.
- b) Biodiversity – The large areas of grass offer valuable habitats and support various species.
- c) Environment & Climate Emergency – Correct maintenance of recreation grounds will ensure water is drained into the soils, helping to alleviate flooding in other areas.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

The provision of pitches for junior football and amateur adult teams is significant for the local community. Football teams promote physical and mental well-being, encourage community engagement, and help reduce antisocial behaviour by offering positive, structured activities.

Financial implications

Members are invited to note the report.