

## **SPORT AND PLAY COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday 2 November 2020

**Title:** Sports Pitches – irrigation systems

**Contact Officer:** Operations and Estates Officer - John Hickman

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### **Background**

The purpose of this report is to update Members on situation relating to the Bowls Clubs irrigation system – further to last committee meeting (reference minute SP262 refers); and also consider the situation relating to the Cricket Square maintenance.

### **Cricket Square Irrigation.**

Lack of water pressure at both West Witney and the Leys Cricket squares has again been a problem during last summer. The Leys has caused a real issue with getting sufficient water onto the square to maintain the wickets in a good condition.

The water pressure at the Leys seems to be getting lower every year and is now insufficient to be able to provide sufficient water to the square or give a reasonable and sufficient spray head from the sprinkler when used.

Contractors are struggling to maintain this wicket and have asked if the grey water from the splash park can be used to water the square from the grey water tank.

A pumping system would need to be fitted the Operations and Estates Officer would advise that a specialist Irrigation company is contacted as to what system etc. would be required in order to irrigate the cricket square sufficiently using the grey water from the grey water tank.

### **Bowls Green Irrigation Systems**

The meeting of Witney Town Bowls green users has not taken place at the time of writing this report, however the Operations and Estates Officer should be able to provide an update regarding bowls clubs handing irrigation systems over to WTC.

A quote for annual service charge for the irrigations systems has been provided with the cost being £840 + Vat per year.

The Contractor that has quoted has already raised concerns regarding the mixture of large and small sprinkler heads on each of the bowls greens already, so council could expect that as well as some essential maintenance work initially there may be some cost associated to alterations to the systems to make them fit for purpose initially if the systems are handed to WTC.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Fitting a grey water irrigation system to the cricket square using the Splash Park grey water would reduce the environmental impact of the Splash Park on water wastage.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

### **Financial implications**

A quote for annual service charge for the bowls irrigations systems has been provided with the cost being £840 + Vat per year.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. that the Operations and Estates Officer into a Grey Water irrigation system for the Leys Cricket Square.
2. that subject to a verbal update from the Operations and Estates Officer from a meeting with the Bowls Clubs, the Bowls Green Irrigation Systems are transferred into the control and responsibility of the Council.