

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 10 January 2022

Title: Food Trading at Recreation Grounds

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Purpose of the Report

To consider food trade operation from the Town Council's Recreation Grounds in 2022.

Background

During 2021 the Town Council was approached by separate food trading businesses seeking permission to operate vans at West Witney Sports Ground and The Leys over the summer.

Although agreed by this Committee, the operation at The Leys could not take place as it is listed as a designated Street Trading Area and consent was required from West Oxfordshire District Council. It was not possible for the applicant to apply within the timeframe.

The operation at West Witney Sports Ground, linked to the Sports & Social Club, was agreed for a period of six months from 3rd August – 3rd February 2022. No Street Trading Consent was required.

Current Situation

The Town Council may receive further requests for permission at The Leys again this summer and the agreement made at West Witney Sports Ground is coming to an end.

Historically, the Council provided one pitch at The Leys for summer food trading which was advertised in the Spring for any interested parties to submit sealed bids. The Council is asked to consider whether it would like to consider this approach for 2022 or resolve to allow a pitch at both The Leys and West Witney on a first come, first serve basis.

It should be noted that the operator at West Witney Sports Ground supplies hot food for the Sports & Social Club and has complied with all requests and has worked with the Council throughout the duration of their agreement.

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.

Environmental terms and conditions were imposed on the potential operator at The Leys in 2021, including the use of a generator etc. These should be re-imposed on any subsequent agreement.

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

- Food trading pitches generate an income for the Town Council, with little or no outlay on its part.
- In 2021, the cost of the pitches was calculated as a proportionate cost of the resolved Grounds hire charges. Rental income in the six-month period at West Witney Sports Ground equates to £4,500 (net).

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider:

1. Continuing the food trading arrangement at West Witney Sports Ground with the current operator, end date and charge to be confirmed; and,
2. Whether the Council would like to allow franchise pitches on its grounds in the summer of 2022; and if yes,
 - a) Whether these should be on a first come, first serve basis or,
 - b) Whether expressions of interest should be advertised. Details on this could be brought to the March meeting of the Committee.