
DUNOON PLAYING FIELDS AND SPORTS STADIUM

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Dunoon benefits from a comprehensive outdoor sports facility at the Black Park site. The facility comprises of a running track, 4 x 5 a-side all-weather pitches (cages) which are currently leased by Dunoon5s at no cost to the council. And a number of grass pitches. Various arrangements are in place for the use of the facility but there is currently no overall management plan for the coordination of the site.
- 1.2 As part of an earlier report it was proposed that discussions should take place between ABC, user groups, stakeholders and any other interested groups. These discussions would provide a better understanding of their requirements and expectations in relation to the stadium in order to put in place arrangements that cover the holistic use of the facility.
- 1.3 A meeting was held on 29th Oct 2015 to discuss future operational management and use of the stadium facilities and options for the future management of the “Cages” at the Black Park.
- 1.4 It has been agreed that further consultation will be undertaken between the Stadium User Groups to determine the best way forward for the “cages” and that a comprehensive business plan be developed for both the Black park area and the “cages” within the site. This will include bringing forward proposals for the future management of the 5 a-side cages.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report and note discussions regarding the facility as a whole.

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3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide further details to Members with regards to options for operating the five-a-side all weather pitches and other facilities at Dunoon Stadium.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members note the contents of this report and agree to a consultation exercise being carried out to work towards a holistic management arrangement for the facility as a whole.

5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 This report provides an update on the current lease arrangement at the cages facility within the Black Park and the options being considered for future management of the facility.
- 5.2 A&BC and Dunoon 5s have agreed a rolling monthly extension to the previous agreement to manage the "cages" at Dunoon Stadium.
- 5.3 A meeting took place at the stadium on 29th Oct 2015 with User Groups namely; Cowal Rugby Club, Dunoon Athletic FC, DYFL, Dunoon 5s, Cowal Shinty. Cowal Gathering and PA23 Bids Managers were made aware of meeting and have been provided with a note of the meeting.
- 5.4 A&BC were represented by Officers from Amenity Services, Economic Development and the Sports Hubs Officer from Community Services.
- 5.5 As part of a discussion around facility usage, Amenity Services agreed to look at general provision and availability of grass pitches with a view to setting out clear guidelines on match and training pitch availability to help meet the expectations of the clubs.
- 5.6 The Sports Hub Officer advised she is to visit Dunoon in early Jan 2016 to open up discussion around sports provision in Dunoon. The Officer emphasised her role was not solely around the stadium facility but more around creating a Dunoon Sports Hub that can consider future options for all sports provision in the area.

- 5.7 One of the main concerns from the clubs was the pricing policy for pitch provision at both the stadium and school campus. Further discussions will take place regarding the pricing policy that is in place.
- 5.8 The outcome of the consultation by the Sports Hubs officer will be presented to members in early 2016.
- 5.9 As part of any long term plan for the wider stadium facility, it will be necessary to lay out clear Users Guidelines in terms of pitch usage / maintenance and booking slots etc. this will form part of on-going discussions and be put in place after a further meeting in Jan 2016 to form part of a Service Procedures policy for Dunoon Stadium..
- 5.10 A&B council currently employ one full time member of staff within the stadium and it is that person's responsibility to ensure upkeep of pitches and surrounding areas are to an acceptable standard and playing surfaces are kept in good order to allow continued use.
The council take into consideration the needs of the clubs, the health and safety risks and maintenance to turf during winter months. It has been agreed that the council will work with club representatives to try to meet a compromise situation when inclement weather may be a factor in deciding pitch availability.
- 5.11 To alleviate the pressure on grass parks during mid-week training, the clubs considered the Black Park and Cages facility as a potential option to improve training facilities, including upgrading dressing rooms adjacent to the site and potential to create all weather surfacing on the existing grass park.
- 5.12 The clubs agreed to meet again in Dec 2015 with a view to working up a business plan to take back to the council in Jan 2016. Support was offered from Economic Development with regards to funding streams and support in applying for grants etc.
- 5.13 Any proposed changes to the Black Park area may require full planning permission and wider consultation with all user groups at the stadium including Cowal Highland Gathering.
- 5.14 Further developments on the Management Policy for the stadium and future management of the "cages" and Black Park area will be presented at an Area Committee meeting in early 2016.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is agreed that the general stadium facility is operating well and that feedback from clubs is generally positive in terms of the condition of playing surfaces. The council will look to create a general users guide for user groups. This report also advises that we are consulting with as many sports groups as possible to develop a management plan for the stadium and identifying future arrangements for management of the cages and the wider site at Black Park. In the interim the existing lease is extended on a monthly basis without financial support from A&BC. This will allow the Sports Hub Officer / Amenity Services and Economic Development officers to engage with interested parties and to bring back proposals to Member's in early 2016

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Policy: Potential Third Sector Transfer Support
- 7.2 Financial: Future implications to Amenity Services
- 7.3 Legal: Asset transfer of facility/Minute of Agreement
- 7.4 HR: N/A
- 7.5 Equalities: N/A
- 7.6 Risk: Long term financial sustainability of facility should the existing ad hock arrangements continue. Provision of a holistic management arrangement for the facility in its entirety and the various user groups will help to provide a sound frame work under which the facility can be run in the future.
- 7.7 Customer Service: N/A

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services

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