

## LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

### Report for Agenda Item 21.039

**Subject:** All Weather Artificial Grass Playing Pitch (3GATP).

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

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#### 1. Report Summary.

- 1.1 This report describes the background for two decisions that are required on the use of funds and public open space in the parish of Laverstock and Ford for the provision of an All-Weather Artificial Grass Playing Pitch (3GATP).

#### 2. Background.

- 2.1 In 2017 Wiltshire Council adopted a Playing Pitch Strategy (WPPS), which included a requirement for two full-size Third Generation Artificial Turf Pitches (3GATPs) in the Salisbury, South-West and Southern Community Areas.
- 2.2 The Outline Planning Application (13/00673/OUT) for the development of 673 dwellings at Longhedge included the Planning Obligation to construct a full-size grass football pitch with changing rooms and car parking.
- 2.3 In 2019 extensive discussions took place between the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council and the developers of Longhedge (then Linden/Bovis) with regard to the areas of Open Space that the Parish Council would adopt, and the Open Space Maintenance funds that would accompany them. During these discussions it was agreed that the Parish Council would not adopt the playing pitch, changing room or car park. The funding available would have meant that this facility would either have to be subsidised from the precept or managed as a business. At the time the Council did not have sufficient resources.

#### 3. 3GATP.

- 3.1 In February 2019 the Parish Council became aware, through Wiltshire Cllr McLennan's Viewpoint publication, that he had requested a 'planning gain' of £500k from Catesby Estates to construct a 3GATP on the Longhedge football pitch site.
- 3.2 In February 2020 the Parish Council was informed that this request had failed. The total sum available was only £29,367. Nevertheless, an S106 Agreement earmarked this sum for a 3GATP either at Sarum Academy or at Longhedge. The Parish Council was not consulted on this S106 agreement.
- 3.3 Subsequent discussions with the Play and Leisure Strategy Officer at Wiltshire Council have revealed that the approximate cost of a compliant 3GATP is £725,000 and that it would require a maximum grant of £500,000 from the Football Foundation. To be compliant the 3GATP must have secure

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fencing, floodlighting, changing rooms and car parking with 60 to 100 spaces.

- 3.4 Both the Play and Strategy Officer and a representative of the Wiltshire Football Association have expressed doubts about the suitability of the Longhedge site for a 3GATP. They have been investigating other sites within the Parish including land owned by Laverstock and Ford Sports Club.
- 3.5 The Play and Strategy Officer has further requested that the Parish Council agree to a planning gain that might arise from the proposed Church Road, Laverstock development (20/11598/OUT) should it be approved. This would be a Youth and Adult Recreation contribution of £60,993 and would be used to support the construction of a 3GATP in the Parish

### **4. Recommendation.**

- 4.1 That the Council convene a stakeholder meeting to determine the suitability of the Longhedge football pitch site for a 3GATP, and, if unsuitable, investigate alternative proposals for adoption and management.
- 4.2 That the Council approve the request for a Youth and Adult Recreation contribution from the Church Road development to be used for the construction of a 3GATP in the Parish,