

Committee Report: Football Foundation Biannual Reports Summary

Date: 5th December 2024

To: Leisure & Recreation Committee

From: Andrew Briggs – Ops Manager

Subject: Football Foundation Biannual Reports

Council Priority: Provide a high standard of facilities.

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 To NOTE the recommendations outlined within the FF reports.
- 1.2 To Note the Officers report.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 This report consolidates the findings from inspections conducted at three recreation grounds: Mannington, Penhill, and Southbrook.
The pitches were assessed based on the Pitch Quality Standard (PQS), which examines various factors such as grass coverage, surface evenness, drainage, and the condition of goalposts.
The inspections were carried out by the Football Foundations and CSNPC/IDV to evaluate the condition of the football pitches and recommend necessary maintenance and improvements.
The inspections aim to ensure that the pitches meet the required standards for grassroots football, providing safe and playable surfaces for the local teams.

3.0 Detail

1. Mannington Rec (Site ID: 6000458)

- **Pitch Assessments:**
 - Pitch 1: Advanced PQS (64%)
 - Strengths: Excellent grass coverage, minimal weed presence.
 - Issues: Slow drainage, surface compaction.
 - Pitch 2: Good PQS (55%)
 - Strengths: Consistent grass height, weed-free surface.
 - Issues: Shallow root depth, moderate thatch buildup.
 - Pitch 3: Good PQS (55%)
 - Strengths: Low weed coverage.
 - Issues: Shallow topsoil and uneven surface.

- Pitch 4: Good PQS (57%)
 - Strengths: Good drainage, acceptable root depth.
 - Issues: Thatch layer requires attention.
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Regular mowing and line marking during the growing season.
 - Deep slitting during autumn/winter to improve drainage.
 - End-of-season scarification, overseeding, and granular fertilisation.

2. Penhill Recreation Ground (Site ID: 6000602)

- **Pitch Assessments:**
 - Pitch 1: Good PQS (57%)
 - Strengths: Free-draining soil, excellent grass quality.
 - Issues: Limited topsoil depth and thatch buildup.
 - Pitch 2: Good PQS (41%)
 - Strengths: Good drainage in most areas.
 - Issues: Sparse grass coverage, poor root depth.
 - Pitch 3: Good PQS (57%)
 - Strengths: Well-maintained grass with no visible weeds.
 - Issues: Compacted soil limiting drainage and aeration.
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Twice-yearly decompaction to reduce soil compaction.
 - Fortnightly surface grooming to address thatch and compaction.
 - Annual scarification and overseeding for all pitches.
 - Controlled release fertilisation in spring and autumn.

3. Southbrook Recreation Ground (Site ID: 6000450)

- **Pitch Assessments:**
 - Main Pitch: Good PQS (57%)
 - Strengths: No visible weed presence, consistent grass quality.
 - Issues: Compacted soil, moderate drainage issues.

- **Key Recommendations:**

- Weekly mowing and line marking during the growing season.
- Spring and autumn scarification to reduce organic buildup.
- Granular fertilisation to enhance turf health.
- Deep slitting during autumn and winter to address drainage.

4.0 **Cost Breakdown**

Site	Maintenance Activity	Estimated Cost (£)
Mannington Rec	Decompaction	2,000
	Scarification	1,400
	Overseeding	5,600
	Fertilization	2,600
	Goal Mouth Repairs	80
	Selective Herbicide	1,400
Total (Mannington)		13,080

Penhill Recreation Ground	Decompaction	3,000
	Surface Grooming	2,400
	Scarification	1,050
	Overseeding	4,200
	Fertilization	3,900
	Selective Herbicide	700
Total (Penhill)		12,910

Southbrook Rec	Decompaction	500
	Scarification	350
	Overseeding	1,400
	Fertilization	650
	Goal Mouth Repairs	20
	Selective Herbicide	350
Total (Southbrook)		3,270

5.0 **Recommendations**

- **Budget Allocation**
Allocate £30k in the 2025/26 budget for the recommended works across all three sites.
- **Implementation of Maintenance Schedule**
Develop a comprehensive maintenance calendar to ensure timely and effective execution of all activities, such as fertilisation, scarification, and line marking.
- **Staff Training and Resources**
Provide relevant training for grounds staff and consider the acquisition of necessary tools and equipment for efficient pitch maintenance.
- **Ongoing Monitoring and Reporting**
Conduct biannual pitch inspections and submit progress reports to the committee, ensuring compliance with the grant's terms and conditions.
- **Community Engagement**
Promote the improved facilities to local teams and leagues to increase utilisation and foster community involvement.