Permanent Cricket Base for Practice Net

Moredon Sporting Hub

1. Summary.

This business case proposes that Council considers the installation of a permanent artificial cricket wicket base at MSH as a capital investment for inclusion within the 2027/28 financial year budget.

The current quotation from Merrett Services Ltd is £9,518.85 excluding VAT. The specification includes the installation of a 15m x 2.74m FORZA Club Spec artificial cricket wicket, together with excavation, construction of the sub-base, weed-control membrane, granite dust or sand finishing layer, shock mat, installation of the cricket surface and surrounding landscaping.

The project will be developed in partnership with Blue Brigade Cricket Club, which currently uses Moredon Sporting Hub and has indicated that it will contribute £500 towards the project. This contribution demonstrates the club's commitment to the development of cricket at Moredon and reduces the proposed net capital requirement from the Parish Council to £9,018.85 excluding VAT, based on the current quotation. Blue Brigade have indicated that they maybe in a position to contribute more to the project if required.

The proposed permanent installation represents a more sustainable long-term solution than continuing with a temporary or inadequately prepared surface. A professionally constructed base will provide greater stability and consistency, protect the artificial playing surface, reduce the risk of premature deterioration and provide a facility that can be incorporated into the Hub's ongoing inspection and maintenance arrangements.

2. Proposed Works

The quotation from Merrett Services Ltd specifies the following scope:

- Create a safe working area / compound.
- Install FORZA Club Spec Cricket Matting with stump lines, 2.74m wide x 15m long.
- Excavate the existing soil, with excavated material retained on site for landscaping and seeding.
- Create wooden shuttering / framework.
- Construct a 50mm bottom layer using limestone or granite MOT Type 1.
- Install weed-control fabric of 100gsm or higher within the construction.
- Finish with 6mm granite dust or sand.
- Install a shock mat using appropriate adhesive.
- Install the cricket surface over the shock mat using appropriate adhesive.
- Landscape around the wicket and tidy the working area on completion.

3. Benefits and Strategic Rationale

Improved quality and consistency

A purpose-built base provides a stable and consistent surface, creating a better environment for cricket training and reducing the risk of the surface becoming uneven over time.

Community and sporting benefit

A permanent cricket area would expand the sporting offer at Moredon Sporting Hub and support coaching, club use, junior development and community cricket activities.

Multi-sport value

Investment in cricket infrastructure would help maintain Moredon Sporting Hub as a genuine multi-sport facility, while also demonstrating a clear commitment to cricket. This could support future discussions with the ECB and Wiltshire Cricket regarding the potential development of an additional 3G pitch at the Hub.

Operational benefits

A permanent installation would reduce the need to set up or reposition of the nets and provide a defined area that can be easily managed, inspected and maintained.

3G floodlighting

The proposed location would also benefit from the additional lighting provided by the existing 3G floodlights. This would improve visibility around the cricket area during darker periods and provide an additional operational benefit without requiring separate lighting infrastructure.

4. Community Access and Income Generation

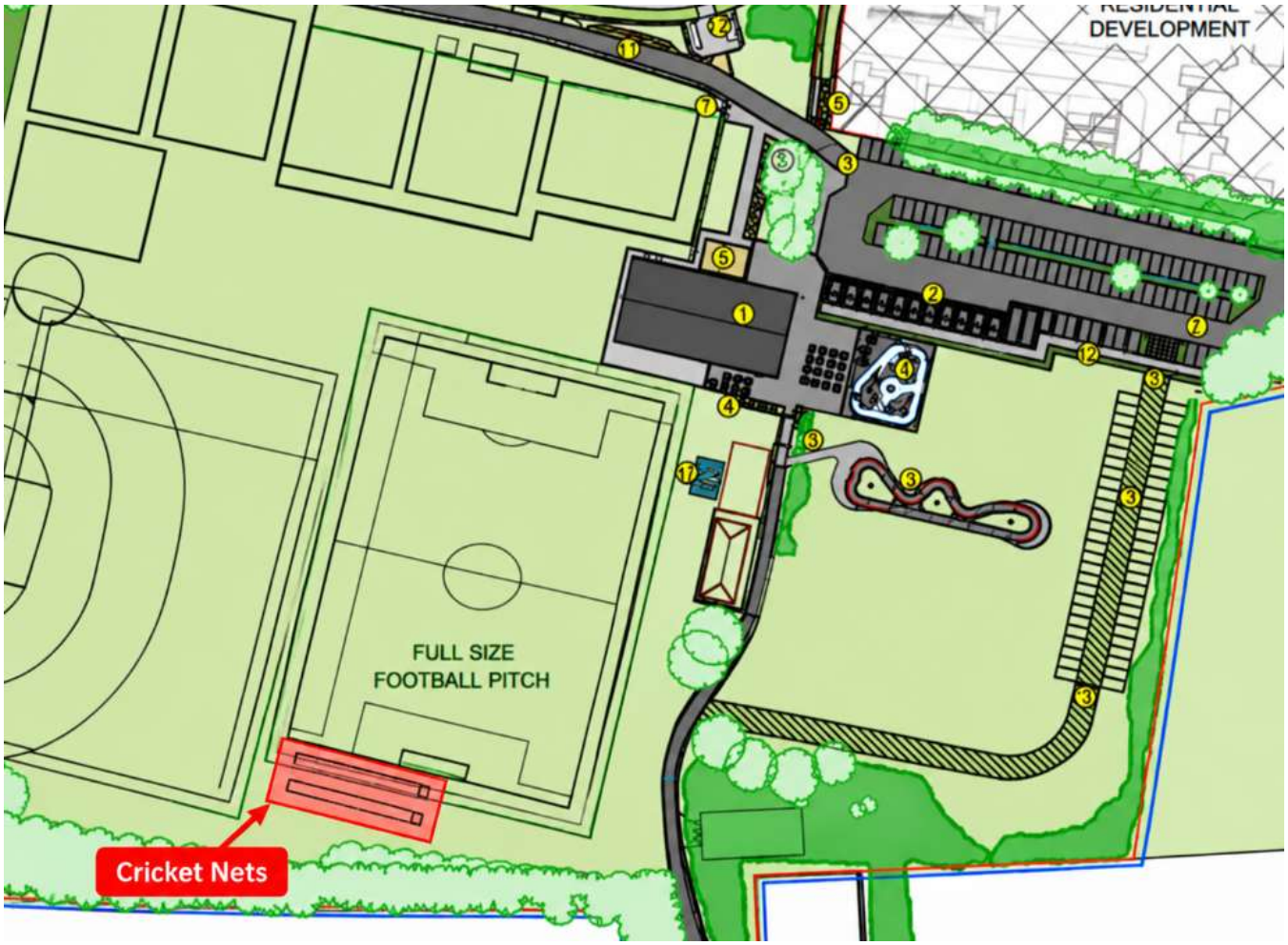
Community Access and Income Generation

Under the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA), **Blue Brigade Cricket Club** has agreed use of the cricket facility during the following sessions:

- **Wednesday:** 17:30 – 20:30
- **Friday:** 17:30 – 20:30
- **Sunday:** 14:00 – 17:00

Outside of these agreed club sessions, the cricket facility would be made available for **community hire at a proposed rate of £25 per hour**.

5. Location



6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Councillors considers the capital investment required to install a permanent artificial cricket wicket base at Moredon Sporting Hub.

The permanent constructed base is the preferred option as it provides a long-term solution, creates a dedicated cricket asset at the Hub and supports the continued development of Moredon Sporting Hub as a balanced, multi-sport community facility.