

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		GTP/02/15
Meeting:	GREAT NOTLEY COUNTRY PARK JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD	
Date:	23 January 2015	
SPORTS UPDATE - ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH AND MULTI-USE GAMES AREA		
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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides Members with an update on progress and performance with the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Great Notley Country Park from 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2014.

## 2. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Our key achievements at the facility since the last Board Meeting (March 2014) are summarised below. These have been taken from the latest progress report prepared by Braintree Town Football Club (BTFC) Youth Academy, our delivery partners for the facility. (The full report is attached at Appendix A.)

- Six one-day soccer camps held in Summer 2014 for over 120 boys & girls aged 7 to 11.
- 55 local boys attending the Academy full-time using the facility 3 days per week during the off-peak daytime periods.
- The introduction of "Walking Football" sessions for the over 40 age group to encourage a healthier lifestyle.
- The launch of a Disabled Sport programme with an Essex Soccability Day hosted on behalf of the Essex FA.
- The staging of a "Football & History" event in partnership with Braintree Museum over the Summer holidays.
- Weekly Goalkeeper coaching and Elite coaching sessions for promising young footballers supervised by the Academy's own coaches.
- The purchase of a 17-seat minibus for transporting Academy boys between the BTFC Stadium (where academic studies take place) and GNCP where coaching takes place. The bus has also been used for community sessions such as providing transport to/from the Walking Football.
- John Ray School Day – On hearing the news about the fire at John Ray School, BTFC organised a day of football fun for John Ray pupils at Gt Notley. Academy coaches and students supervised the children. BDC & BTFC provided this free of charge.
- The training of 60 students to be qualified as Football Association Level 1 Coaches. These in turn are now qualified to promote football in the area.

- The qualification of 15 Academy students as FA Level 2 Coaches, together with invited Coaches from other local youth football clubs.

Over the past year a total of 42 different football teams representing 19 different sports organisations have used the facility on a regular basis.

This equates to over 900 players regularly using the facility through their football club, with an additional 451 hours of casual bookings being made by individual players over the last 12 months.

### 3. BUDGET UPDATE

Income received during the 8-month period from April 2014 – November 2014 was £28k compared to £22.4k for the same period in the previous year, representing an increase of just over 24%.

Total annual income for 2014-15 is projected to be around £45k, with the full year's operating costs also expected to come in around the £45k mark. The facility is therefore expected to reach the break-even point for the first time since its first full year of operation in 2010/11.

### 4. ONGOING DEVELOPMENT

We are currently working on the following areas of development:-

- A revised version of the Football Development Plan produced by BTFC was recently approved by the Football Foundation and the Football Association and we are looking forward to making excellent progress in delivering the key components of the improved plan (attached in Appendix B).
- Securing the support of **The Football Conference Community Trust** to promote its community activities such as Soccer Camps, Specialist Coaching, school visits, Walking Football and Disabled Sport.
- Seeking 'kite mark' recognition for BTFC's community activities by achieving Football League **'Community Capability Status'**. Part of this will be the establishment of BTFC's community section, Community Iron, as a Charitable Independent Organisation.
- The hosting of a "Soccability" Festival as part of the FA's national scheme to encourage people with disabilities to play and enjoy football.
- The planning of two further "Soccability" events to be held in March and May 2015 to encourage more schools to take part – as requested by the Essex FA following the success of the initial festival held in November 2014.

### 5. CONCLUSION

Excellent progress has continued to be made over the past 8 months. In addition to increased use of the off-peak sessions by local clubs and community groups, Gt. Notley Football Club (which is the single largest user) has continued to take a more pro-active role in our monthly management meetings and has committed resources to help develop and deliver the Football Development Plan.

Looking ahead over the longer term, we are confident that our partnership with BTFC will result in greater promotion and increased use of the facility which will contribute towards our future vision and aspirations for the development and management of the Country Park as a major visitor attraction in the Braintree District and County of Essex over the next 5 to 10 years.

### 6. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the report.

Nick Day

Parks & Open Spaces Manager  
Braintree District Council

13 January 2015