

		AGENDA ITEM 4
		GTP/02/19
Committee:	GREAT NOTLEY COUNTRY PARK JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD	
Meeting Date:	15 July 2019	
Report:	ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH AND MULTI-USE GAMES AREA	
Enquiries to:	Samir Pandya Strategy and Policy Manager, Braintree District Council	

1. INTRODUCTION

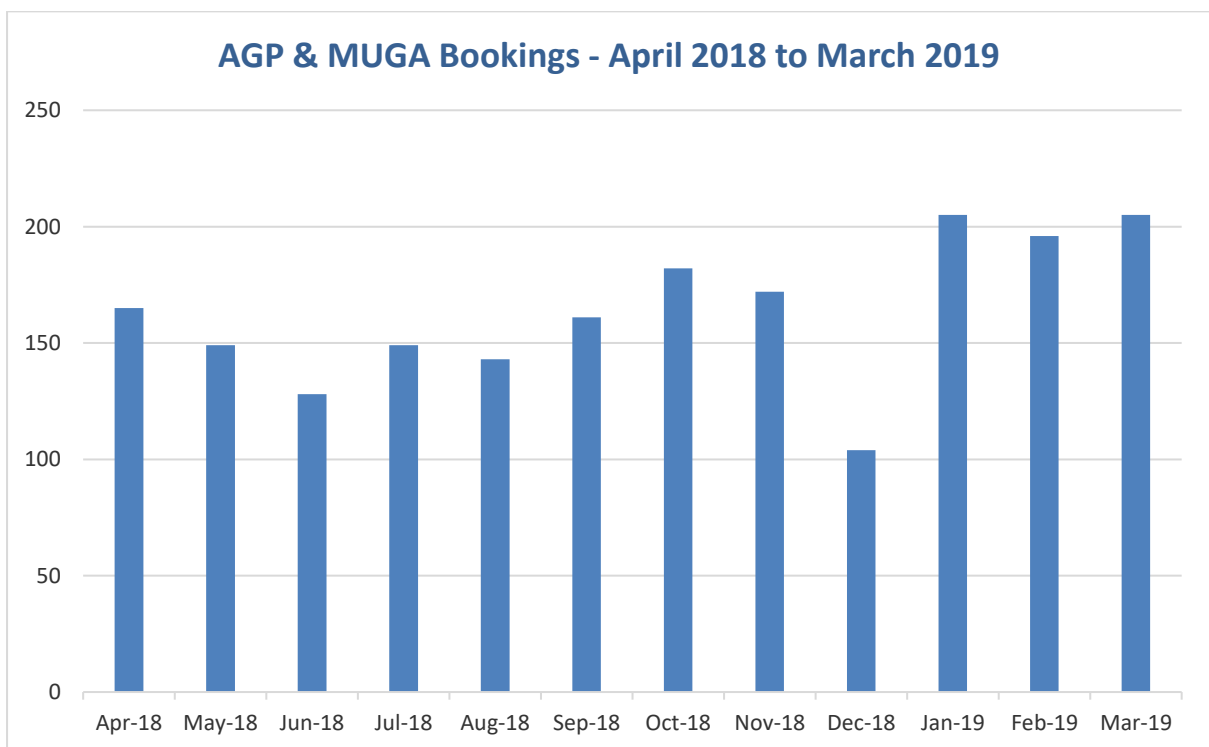
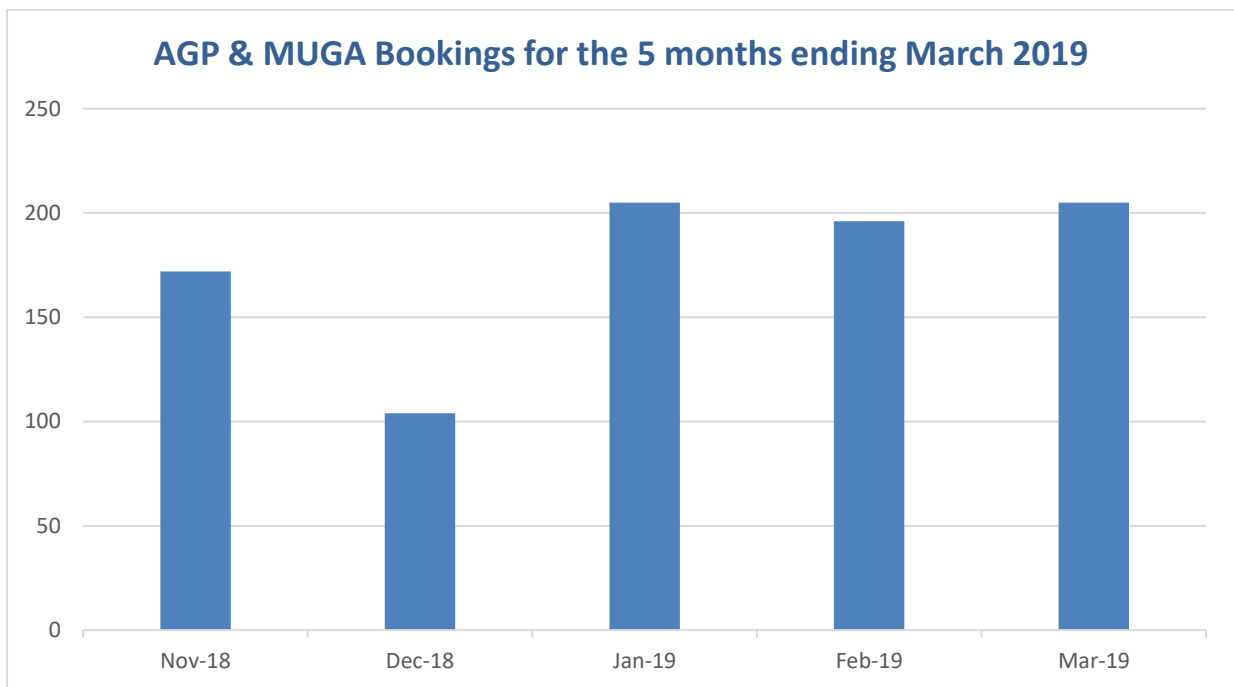
This report provides Members with an update on usage and income from the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Great Notley Country Park. It covers a 5-month period from 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019.

2. USAGE AND BOOKINGS

The tables below show the number of bookings taken in the second half of 2018-19 and the full year. There were 882 bookings in total over the five month period - an average of 176 per month; this was down by 195 bookings or an average of 39 per month compared to the same period in 2017-18. Total bookings for 2018-19 were 1,959 compared to 2,112 the previous year i.e. down by 153 bookings.

There have been 34 different organisations/individuals both in and outside of the Braintree District who have regularly booked the facility, ranging from adult and children's football clubs (including Braintree Town Football Academy and Great Notley Youth Football Club), other sporting clubs, a veterinary practice and a public house. Braintree Town Football Academy and Great Notley Youth Football Club account for some 46% of the total bookings.

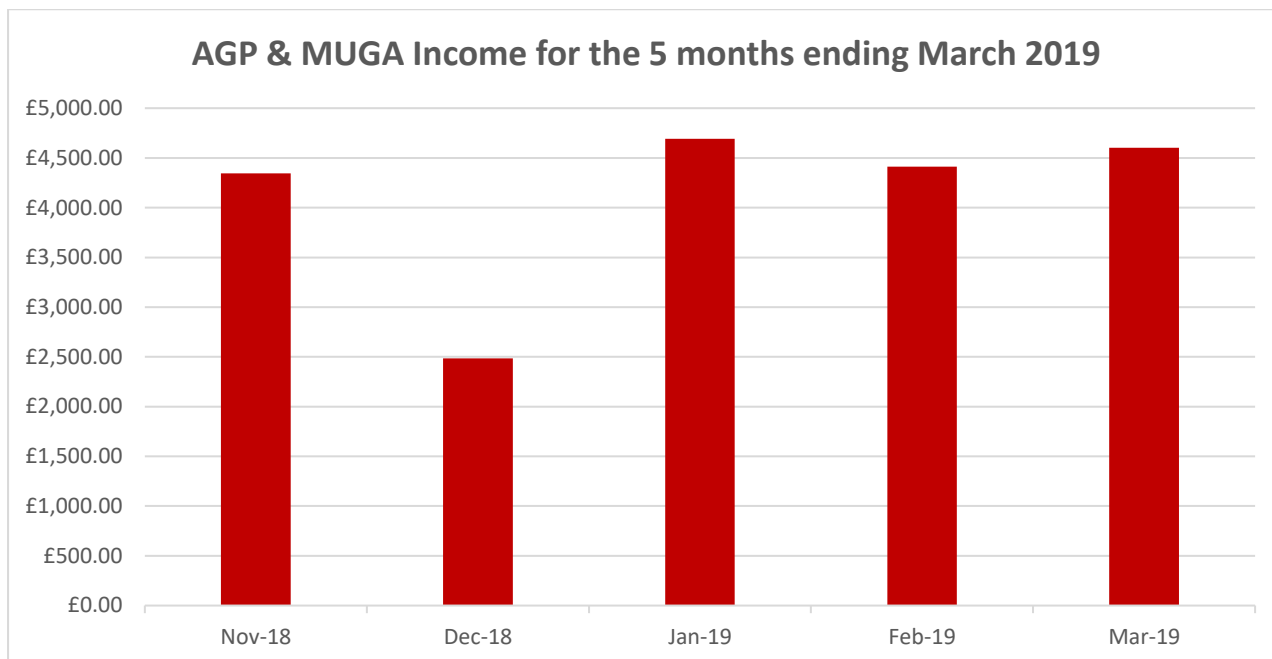
The facility continues to be well used during peak periods (evenings and weekends) when it is virtually full to capacity. This equates to 75% of all bookings, the remainder being made during the off-peak period (daytime Monday to Friday). Off-peak usage has and will continue to be a challenge in terms of the number of bookings.



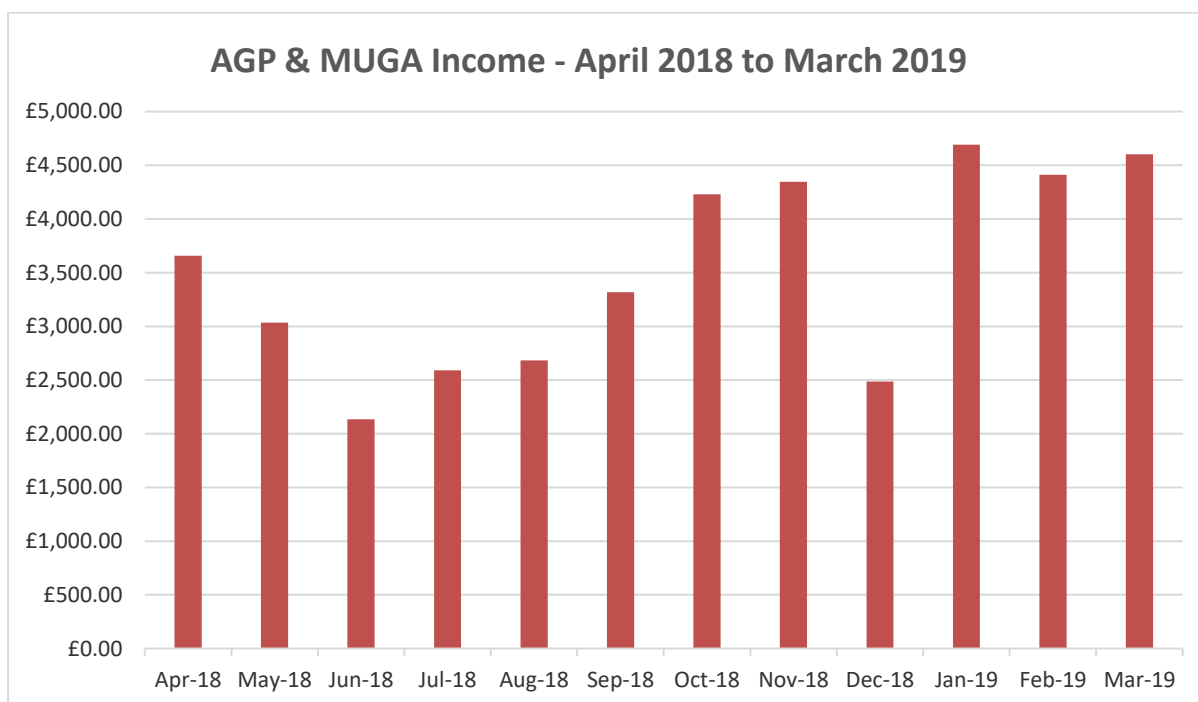
3. INCOME GENERATION

The income generated from the AGP and MUGA has more or less remained in line with the budget projection for 2018-19 and follows a similar trend to the previous year. At the end of the financial year we had received £42,184.08 which compares to £42,113.20 in 2017-18.

The tables below show the monthly income received.



As expected, there was an income drop during the summer months compared to that achieved during the Autumn/Winter which is the actual football season.



4. RENEWAL OF THE ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH

As mentioned at the last Board Meeting, the artificial grass pitch (carpet) is due to be replaced by the end of August 2019, as it will be 10 years old. Since the facility was opened back in 2009, BDC has received £1.5k p.a. from Great Notley Football Club and has itself contributed £18k p.a. to a reserve (sinking) fund. As at March 2019, the value of the reserve was £155k which will be used to replace the carpet and refurbish the facility. Tenders were invited in June and works are due to start on site in mid-July.

5. FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) at Great Notley Country Park was installed by BDC using grant funding supplied by the Football Foundation (FF). As part of the conditions of the grant, the FF required an approved Football Development Plan.

For the 2019-20 season BDC has again entered into a Service Level Agreement with the Community Iron (CI); the community charity of Braintree Town FC, to help deliver the aim and objectives of the Football Development Plan for BDC.

The plan aims to provide additional opportunities for using the AGP. CI and BDC meet regularly to review the Plan. **Appendix 1** shows the progress report from CI up to April 2019.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the report.

Samir Pandya
Strategy and Policy Manager

2 July 2019