

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		GTP/05/17
Committee:	GREAT NOTLEY COUNTRY PARK JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD	
Meeting Date:	6 NOVEMBER 2017	
Report:	ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH AND MULTI-USE GAMES AREA	
Enquiries to:	Paul Partridge Head of Operations, Braintree District Council	

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides Members with an update on delivery of the Football Development Plan 2017/18 together with the usage and income from the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Great Notley Country Park. This covers the six-month period from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017.

2. FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Football Development Plan for the AGP and MUGA is set out in Appendix 1. The actions have been agreed with Community Iron (Braintree Town Football Club), the Football Association and Football Foundation and cover the 2017/18 football season. Progress is reported at the monthly partnership meetings and the annual review with the Football Foundation. The main emphasis of the Plan continues to be on usage of the AGP and MUGA during the off-peak period (predominantly daytime) and developing community football activities for young people including Soccer Camps, Coaching Courses, Open Tournaments and Competitions at Great Notley Country Park, all of which relate to our respective Council's health, well-being and leisure objectives.

During the past six months, Community Iron has continued to deliver the Further Education College Programme offering BTEC vocational qualifications in Sports Management. There have been fifty five 16 -18 year old boys and girls on the programme, which is in its second and final year. This academic programme has been delivered by an external provider, Virtual Learning UK, in conjunction with Community Iron, who supervises all the practical work (coaching) associated with the course. This is primarily based around football, with all practical sports coaching sessions being held at Great Notley Country Park.

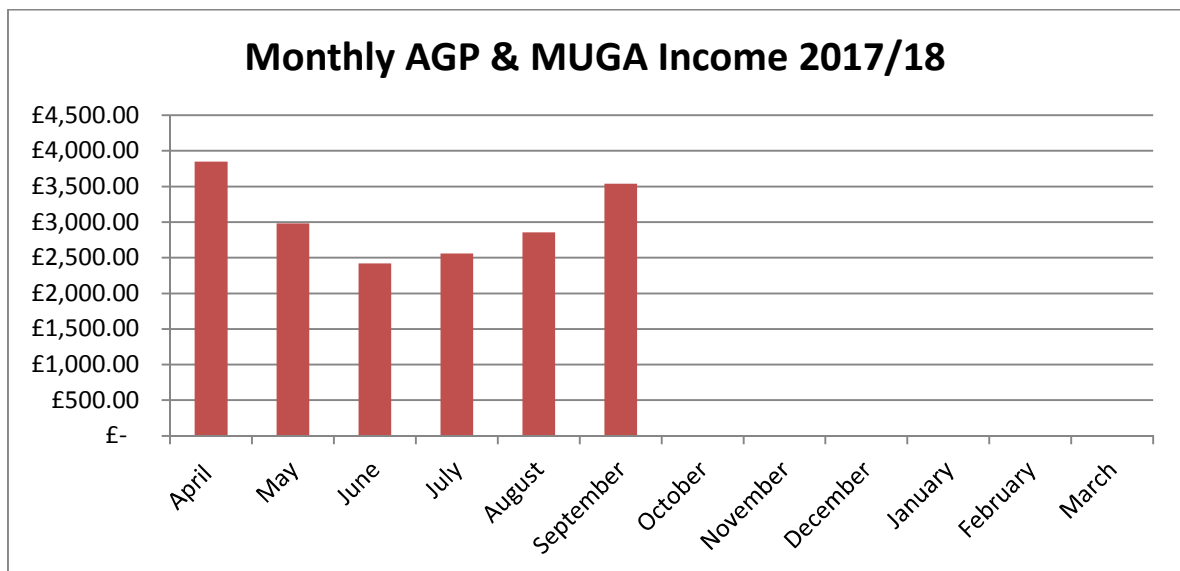
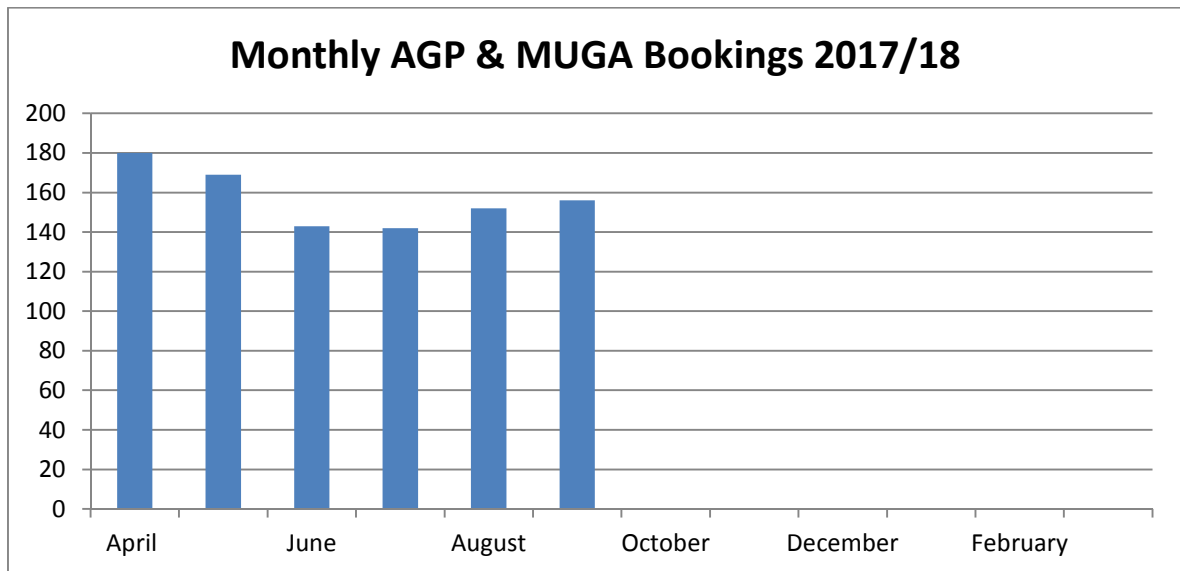
Community Iron also continues to run weekly Soccer Camps during school half-terms and the Easter and Summer school holidays. Typically 30 children attend from 10am to 3pm each session and they receive mementos and 'challenge' trophies. BDC supplies the pitch and the Football Club supplies the coaches and equipment.

Earlier in the season, 9 local schools took part in an inaugural Community Iron 6-a-side football competition held at Great Notley County Park. Several mixed teams took part with the winners being Lyons Hall Primary School, who won all their matches. They went on to play in a South East England Tournament which they won, before losing out in the National League play-off finals held at Wembley Stadium.

3. USAGE (NO OF BOOKINGS & INCOME)

The usage of the facility, number of bookings, etc. is similar to that of last year which demonstrates good use of the facility and a high level of interest locally in football, etc. Thirty-plus different teams and organisations used the facility for both formal and informal football.

The table below shows an average of 157 bookings per month, a total of 942 from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017 with total income of £18,213. This is line with that profiled for the first 6 months of the year and, if the trend continues, the costs of maintaining the facility will again break-even by 31 March 2018.



4. FOOTBALL FOUNDATION SUPPORT DAY

As part of the original grant funding allocated by the Football Foundation to build the AGP and MUGA, a review takes place annually with the County Football Association and the Football Foundation to review the aims, objectives and outcomes of the Football Development Plan, to ensure that these are in line with the Football Association's overall principles, aims and objectives, especially concerning youth football and encouraging more young females to take part in the sport.

This year's meeting is scheduled for 21 November 2017, at which representatives from some of the clubs will be invited including Great Notley FC who are the main partner club and key stakeholder. The outcomes of this meeting and any recommendations made will be reported to the next meeting of the Joint Venture Partnership Board.

5. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the report.

Paul Partridge
Head of Operations, Braintree District Council

20 October 2017