

Report title: Artificial Grass Pitch and Multi-Use Games Area	
Report to: Great Notley Country Park Joint Venture Partnership Board	
Report author: Samir Pandya, Operations Strategy and Policy Manager, Braintree District Council	
Date: 2 December 2020	For: Consideration
Enquiries to: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on usage and income from the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Great Notley Country Park, as set out in the attached report and appendix covering the seven-month period from 1 April to 31 October 2020.

**GREAT NOTLEY COUNTRY PARK
JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING - 2 DECEMBER 2020
ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH AND MULTI-USE GAMES AREA**

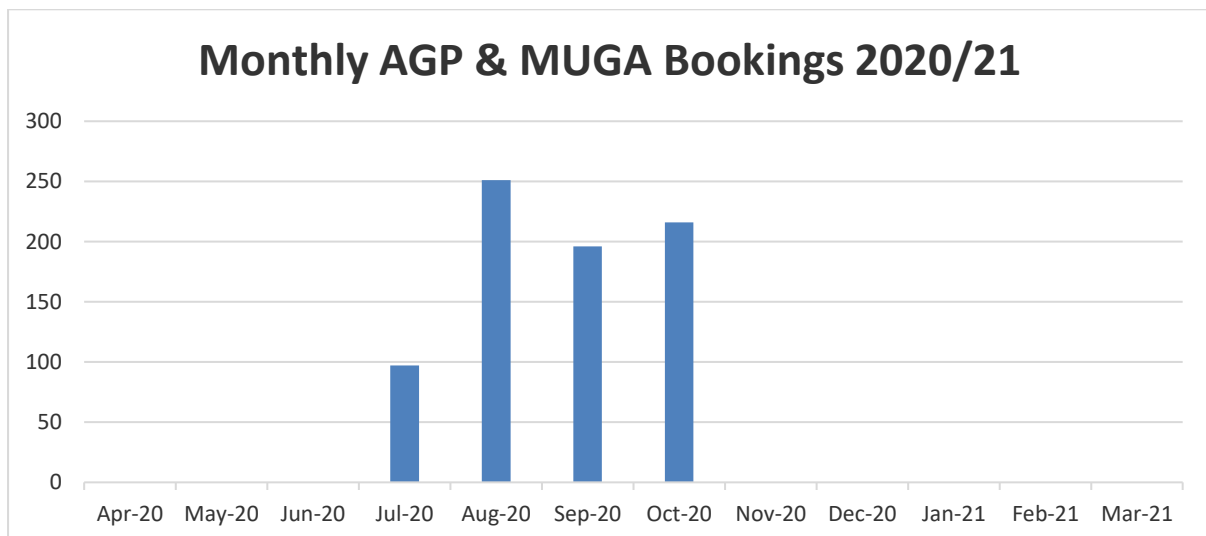
1. INTRODUCTION

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 7-month period from 1 April 2020 to 31 October 2020.

2. USAGE AND BOOKINGS

It will come as no surprise this year that the impact of the lockdown measures introduced by the Government in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic have impacted adversely on the usage of the facility and income generated. During the first three months of the new financial year the facility was closed, with bookings down by 24% and a reduction of gross income circa. £9k compared to the same period in the previous year.

The graph below shows the number of monthly bookings up to the end of October 2020. There were 760 bookings in total over the seven month period - an average of 108 per month; down by 218 bookings or an average of 31 per month compared to the same period in 2019-20.



The facility was used by 39 different organisations/individuals both in and outside of the Braintree District, ranging from adult and children’s football clubs including Braintree Town Football Academy and Great Notley Youth Football Club, and other sporting clubs – **see Appendix 1** for full list.

3. ANNUAL INCOME

At Quarter 2 the total annual income for the facility was projected to be £25k. However, the second national lockdown, implemented on 5 November, saw the facility close again resulting in further loss of income. Assuming the facility re-opens on 2 December (when the lockdown is due to end) and remains open until 31 March 2021, the total projected income is now expected to be £21.5k, which is £20.5k less than budgeted (£42k). However, there may be further national lockdowns which would obviously have a detrimental impact on income.

We recognise that the above is an exceptional situation and had it been a normal trading year, the projected income would have been under-achieved by approx. £7k as has been the case over the past 18 months. We have therefore sought to address this with a budget bid to reduce the actual income going forward from the current budget of £42k to £35k from 2021/22, subject to Cabinet and Council approval in February 2021.

4. FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Last year we agreed a two year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Community Iron (CI), the community charity of Braintree Town Football Club, to help deliver the aims and objectives of the annual Football Development Plan (FDP) for BDC.

The FDP aims to provide additional opportunities for using the AGP. CI and BDC meet regularly to review the Plan. Despite all of the challenges of Covid-19, CI were able to organise and implement activities in July, August and September and these are detailed below.

- Walking Football for Senior Citizens (4 sessions with a total of 40 participants)
- Soccer and Activity Camps for Children (13 sessions with over 90 participants)

5. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the report.

Samir Pandya
Operations Strategy and Policy Manager

20 November 2020

Appendix 1 – List of Clubs using the AGP and MUGA

1	A.Wright (Dunmow Utd)
2	Adam Roach (Silver End YFC)
3	Athleisure
4	Benjamin Bailey
5	Blackmore Rovers
6	Braintree Churches
7	Braintree Town FC Academy
8	Braintree Town YFC
9	Braintree Walking Football
10	Cameron Hope
11	Daniel Clyde
12	Gosfield Vets
13	Great Notley YFC
14	Gt Leighs AFC
15	Gt Leighs YFC
16	Howard Dodge
17	Joseph Reeve
18	Josh Pridmore
19	Kevin Storey
20	Lyons Ladies - MUGA
21	Mark Dempsey/Sporting 77
22	Matt Robinson
23	Micheal Goodman
24	Mike Tilsted
25	MRFA
26	Neil Chambers
27	Nick Eyre
28	Notley Green Lyons
29	P. Parsons
30	Polish Football
31	Rachael Demby
32	Rayne Youths
33	RDC
34	Ross Blackery
35	Russell Pryke
36	S.Panks
37	Silver End United
38	The Inflatables
39	Triconnex