

Confusion over Victoria rec

THE Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity owns the Victoria Road Recreation Ground, Tilehurst, and has leased it to the Reading Borough Council until 1997.

The Trustees had hoped that a recent public meeting would have dispelled any confusion and anxieties regarding public access to the ground, parking, and the nature and timescales of potential improvements to sports facilities.

Despite the assurances

given, misunderstandings have persisted. We would therefore like to clarify certain facts.

1. At the single meeting, to date, between representatives of the council, the charity and the sports clubs, it was agreed that improvements to the existing sports facilities were desirable, and that it was worth exploring the possibilities and the implications.

2. The charity's lease to the council specifically allows for a pavilion within the ground (subject to the consent of the

trustees and the planning authority.

3. Although improvements to facilities are desirable, no specific proposals have been submitted or agreed.

4. There is no intention to restrict access into the ground. The Trustees have no objections in principle, to areas of the ground being roped off for repair or maintenance, or for the mutual safety of players, spectators and casual visitors during matches (as has been done in the past.)

5. The council has expressed interest in delegating to the sports clubs, the collection of council match fees and the allocation of pitches. There is no proposal for the sports clubs to take over the lease of the ground.

6. There is an existing parking problem in the immediate vicinity which is not solely due to sports fixtures, and which would be alleviated by greater use of the nearby car park.

7. Finally, it has been stated by some, that the land was left as a permanent recreation ground for the people of Tilehurst. This is not true. For the record, the object of the charity is to use the land, and the adjoining allotments, to generate income for the relief of poverty and need in Tilehurst (of which there is more than our limited resources can cover).

In this respect the Trustees can decide how the land is used, subject to any legal constraints and requirements.

As Trustees, we would be failing in our duty to the less fortunate residents of Tilehurst, if we did not periodically review the cost effectiveness of our policies.

REV CLIVE M P JONES,
Chairman of the Trustees,
COLIN CAIRNS,
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on behalf of the Trustees.
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