

DRAFT

May commenced to work on report Friday 6th Sept.
7th onwards.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee: ARTS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE.....

Date of Meeting: 24TH SEPTEMBER 1991.....

Title of Report: VICTORIA RECREATION GROUND - TILEHURST.....

Agenda Item No:

For Decision/Information: DECISION.....

Wards affected: KENTWOOD/TILEHURST.....

Services involved: LEISURE.....

Officer Contact:

Name: RICHARD TYNDALL..... Tel: 390457/x2457.....

Designation: LEISURE MANAGER..... Services: LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.....

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

1.1 To report on recent negotiations over the future management of Victoria Recreation Ground, Tilehurst, and to propose the terms of a possible development partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That you adopt the eight point plan set out in paragraph 3.5.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Victoria Recreation Ground, Tilehurst is owned by the Tilehurst Pools' Lands' Charity, and leased to the Council by the Charity's Trustees. It has been managed as a Public Park, and the sports pitches there let to Football and Cricket Clubs in the usual fashion. Historically, it has provided a home ground for Tilehurst Cricket Club and Tilehurst Football Club (Saturdays). A variety of other teams have played there as well.

3.2 Tilehurst Football Club originally approached the Council about possible ground and pavilion improvements, because their ambitions to play a higher standard of Football was frustrated by their inability to meet the ground requirements of the competitions they wished to enter.

Investigation revealed that Tilehurst Cricket Club also felt that ambitions were limited by the standard of the pavilion accommodation.

3.3 A preliminary meeting was held on the 22nd July 1991 between Council officers, the Charity's Trustees and representatives of Tilehurst C.C., Tilehurst F.C. and Tilehurst Club (Sunday) F.C. to see if, in principle, there was any support for the idea of forming a partnership to develop the ground for the sports use, whilst retaining public access and use as a Park. There was broad agreement, that subject to certain safeguards and conditions, that further discussions would be useful.

3.4 A further meeting was held between Council officers and the Sports Club representatives to identify the priorities for any development plan.

Following that meeting, it was agreed that I would write this report for submission to both Arts and Leisure Services Committee and the Tilehurst Poores' Lands' Charity Trustees (1st October 1991), in order to gain formal support for an eight point plan.

3.5 Eight Point Plan

- (a) To accept the principle of a partnership to develop the sports and other facilities at Victoria Recreation Ground, Tilehurst between Tilehurst Poores' Lands' Charity, Reading Borough Council, Tilehurst Cricket Club, Tilehurst Football Club and Tilehurst Club Football Club.
- (b) To take a long term view of the development, and to make sure that all decisions relating to the partnership serve the best long term interests of the Recreation Ground.
- (c) To make the redevelopment of the pavilion the first phase of the partnership's activity.
- (d) The three sports clubs to form a Joint Development Committee before 31st December 1991 to represent the three clubs interests in the partnership.
- (e) The Joint Development Committee of the three clubs to write a development plan for the Recreation Ground, for consideration by the Council and the Trustees before 31st December 1991: 1992.
- (f) To guarantee reasonable public access to the Recreation Ground between dawn and dusk, except on match days.
- (g) To transfer responsibility for pitch allocation and collection of fees on behalf of the Council to the Joint Development committee from the start of the cricket and football seasons in 1992.
- (h) Reading Borough Council to retain its existing lease until its expiry in 31-12-97. September 1997.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are certain conditions in the lease which require the Trustee's consent, including entering into this type of partnership with the Sports Clubs, therefore it is important that the Trustees also agree formally to the eight-point plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The annual lease payment, and the grounds and building maintenance costs are contained within existing budgets. There is no capital available for the improvements to the pavilion.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Sports Club will have to demonstrate their commitment to the Council's Equal Opportunity Policy, in particular how they intend to meet the needs of the target groups (Women, Elderly, Black, Unemployed/Low Income, Disabled).

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Files held in Leisure and Development Sections