



Subject:	Request from Crumlin Star Re Strangford Avenue
Date:	11 October 2016
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme Manager

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to Members a request from Crumlin Star FC seeking permission to undertake alterations to the pitch and potentially the changing pavilion at Strangford Avenue Playing Fields to meet intermediate League Ground Requirements and to seek preferential use of the facility for the Club.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the report and authorise Officers to review the proposal and the implications and make recommendation to Committee re the proposal at a future date.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Committee is asked to note the request from Crumlin Star, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
3.2	Crumlin star FC is a successful team playing in the Intermediate League and, owing to lack of its own facilities and the lack of other suitable alternatives, are currently playing their home

	<p>matches at Larne. The Club has sought support from the Council to secure 'a home' but to date a solution has not been found.</p>
3.3	<p>Crumlin Star is seeking preferential use of Pitch 3 and the adjacent changing pavilion which would be in line with a sports development plan.</p>
3.4	<p>Crumlin star has proposed that the Council investigates the possibility of bringing Pitch 3 and the associated pavilion up to Intermediate League Standard which would enable the Club to play its home games at Strangford Avenue. A map of Strangford Avenue with pitch numbers marked is attached at appendix 2. The Club has indicated that, if successful, it would explore other investment options to enhance the facility. The Club propose that the Council will remain responsible for the maintenance of the pitch and that they would pay for use of the facility.</p>
3.5	<p>While this is very much a preliminary proposal a number of issues exist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a matter for the Club to liaise with the IFA (Intermediate League Committee) regarding the suitability of the facility and to establish what works if any are required; 2. Planning consent may be required; 3. It is a matter for the club to submit a proposal to the Council setting this out and how it would be funded; 4. Officers view this as an investment in the Club rather than an investment in the asset; for example it will not improve the asset or increase usage; 5. The pitch is already used and, should the Council agree to the proposal, it would be necessary to displace existing users and find alternative facilities; 6. It would be necessary to consult with other park users regarding the proposal as it would restrict access to the space for local residents who may wish to use the open space for passive recreational purposes.
3.6	<p>It is the view of Officers that Committee should note the report and authorise Officers to liaise with the Club to address the issues outlined above and any other matters that may arise. A report considering the proposal in more detail will be submitted at a future date.</p>
3.7	<p>For information, Members are reminded that a report outlining a request from Aquinas FC was considered by the Committee in August. The previous request seeks to improve the asset by investing in Floodlighting and a high level fence for the pitch 1 marked at appendix</p>

	2, which will enable youth teams to train on the pitch during the autumn and winter time, subject to usability, as well as continuing to function as a facility for small sided games matches throughout the normal season.
3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There no financial implications at this time. The matter will however require Officer time,
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no Equality Implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 – letter of request from Crumlin Star Appendix 2 – Map of Strangford Avenue Playing Fields