



East Dean & Friston

P a r i s h C o u n c i l

Date: 1st November 2018

Title: Report Item 8 – Ball-stop nets at the recreation ground

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To outline two options for mitigating the risk of cricket balls entering the new housing development

Recommendations: To consider whether the council wishes to support either of the mitigation options proposed by the Cricket Club.

The Cricket Club has had a cricket ground survey carried out by Labosport, a company recommended by England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The survey was conducted with the aid of a drone which took aerial photographs to assess the probability of the balls entering the housing development which is near its completion phase. Labosport recommended that even at an amateur level, they recommend a 10 M ball-stop nets so the balls stay in the playing zone. The survey report is being circulated to councillors.

To mitigate the risk of cricket balls entering the newly built housing development, the Cricket Club is hoping to reduce the risk, and is consulting the parish council on the following two options:

Mitigation option 1: Ball stop nets

The Club would like to apply for planning permission for the installation of the [Ball-stop nets](#).

The survey also concluded that the Children's Playground is also within the striking distance of the ball so the recommendation is to cover the complete section from near the entry gate to the Children's area, thereby mitigating many risks mentioned in the survey.

Ball-stop nets would require the installation of fixed posts (with concrete base) which would be a permanent installation. Since the Sussex Downs area is of outstanding beauty, I have investigated a pull-up ball-stop nets which could be dropped down on the Cricket days. During rest of the week, the nets would be on wrenched up with a pulley system.

I can confirm that the nets could be in white, black or green/brown to blend in with the surroundings. However, the feedback is green colour is least preferred.

I seek the Planning permission for:

- 1) The installation of the ball-stop nets along the entire length of the development to include the children's play area
- 2) I seek your opinion on the preferred colour of the nets.

Please find photos of the ball stop nets at 2 Cricket clubs on the subsequent pages.

Following on from the planning, I will be seeking a grant from the ECB for the installation of this feature. The initial survey and the quotes were forwarded to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) who indicated 50% grant. However, I have requested them to review the situation as the club does not have finances to match the grants.

Currently, there is discussion for the full grants to be covered by the ECB as a best case scenario. However, they would not make a decision before the planning permission is granted as it will waste their time and resources so they would like an all-clear before a meeting with their Financial Director.

The cost of the ball stop nets is approx. £40,000

Mitigation Option 2: Move Cricket Square

I have already discussed the requirements with 2 companies Burley's and Idverde to get a quote to move the Cricket square one length away from the housing (Towards the sea end).

On receipt of the quotes, I would be submitting a grant application with the Wealden Council on the **2nd November**.

This is a Fund matching so whatever grant the Wealden Council approves, we will have to match. This would be a very difficult approach but we plan to have fund raising activities so we can achieve our target.

For us to submit the application, I would request you to kindly consider writing a letter recommending the Cricket Club. Perhaps a few areas of consideration are:

- Recommend the Cricket club and how it is an essential part of the village and the community
- Health and social benefits to the Cricketers
- How welcoming the Cricketers are to the village residents
- Atmosphere in the Cricket club
- Whether it is a positive or a negative for the community
- Whether it is a community asset or not? (There are currently 11 Cricketers from the Village who are part of the club).
- There are 129 household with children so in future, they may wish to play Cricket (**A fact from South Downs website**)

The Cricket Club would like to pursue both the options actively as one can be fall back if something goes wrong with the other option.



