

Date: 3rd January 2019

Title: Report Item 6 – Moving the cricket square

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To provide background financial information on a request from the Cricket Club for a grant of £5,000 to assist them in moving the cricket square

Recommendations: To consider approving a grant of £5,000 to the Cricket Club for moving the cricket square

East Dean and Friston Cricket Club has requested a grant of £5,000 from the parish council towards the cost of moving the cricket square.

The close proximity of the new housing development at the Fridays has increased the risk of cricket balls striking occupants of the new housing to an unacceptably high level. In the absence of any other plan, East Dean and Friston Cricket Club (EDFCC) would like to work with the PC and the Gilbert Estate to share the responsibility of reducing this risk for mutual benefit.

EDFCC is currently exploring two options for mitigating this risk including a) moving the cricket square or b) erecting “ball stop” nets. Both of these options require levels of funding which EDFCC do not have.

In regards the cost of moving the wicket, EDFCC received quotes for the work and have provisionally selected a preferred contractor who has quoted £26,405 (incl. VAT). EDFCC is committed to financing the scheme from various fund-raising sources including grant funding.

EDFCC requests that the Parish Council commits £5k to help move the wicket and would like to highlight some reasons why this would be a positive decision for the local community:

- East Dean and Friston supports the cricket club - EDFCC has received over 70 letters and emails of support from members of the local community including Maria Caulfield MP, John Wilton Wealden District Councilor, the Gilbert Estate, the Residents Association, Beachy Head Chaplaincy, Revd David Baker, Revd Andrew Spear, Villagers and members of the club. A full list of names and households is available upon request.
- A new, professionally built cricket wicket which is a safe distance from the new housing development will be a valuable community asset and secure the future of EDFCC in a village where cricket has been played since before 1870.

- 129 households in East Dean and Friston have children. EDFCC offers the opportunity for local residents both young and old to benefit from being physically active in the local community and we want to do this safely.
- No incidents of cricket balls striking the new housing development with the additional benefit of reducing the risk of ball strike within the existing children's play area in the northwest corner of the field adjacent to the Pavilion.
- An opportunity for the PC, EDFCC and the Gilbert Estate to work together for mutual benefit

The Club has provided the following financial information by way of background:

- Procurement – the Club has secured 2 quotes. Grant application with Wealden Council is submitted. For other details of the grant see below.
- Capital costs and VAT – the main element of the spend is the cost of the square move for which the Cricket club has received 2 quotes. Cost is £26,405 incl. VAT. It is £22,003.40 excluding VAT
- Funding package – Capital grant funding application with the Wealden Council
- Conditions for funding – the Club need to prepare a press release and photos and send it to the funders or invite them to the opening after the works are complete.
- ECB support – ECB has not offered funding
- Timing of works – probably September 2019, soon after the Cricket season is finished.