

## Evidence item 17

### Appendix XIII

This section includes;-

- a) FAQ sheet issued by Bristol City Council Officer Liz Peddle ahead of the Stoke Bishop Neighbourhood partnership Open Forum meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010
  - i. Please note paragraph 3 confirming 125 year lease if academy status achieved
  - ii. Please note in paragraph 3 the heavily qualified reference to possible future open informal recreational access, dog etc and need to minimise risk this is a euphemism for fencing off the pitches. Which would be an end to free open access to the whole Parkland area
  - iii. The reference to number of pitches is useful
  - iv. The reference to use however is inspirational, does not reflect current use but may reflect the level of commercialisation wanted

## **FAQ Stoke Lodge Playing Fields**

### **Have Cotham School or the University got a lease of the site? If so, what are the terms?**

The freehold of the site is owned by the Council and it held for Educational purposes. The land is allocated to Cotham School for their use to deliver their PE curriculum. Cotham School are responsible for the management of the pitches. They have entered into an annual contract with the University of Bristol to undertake this on their behalf. The school pay the University for this service. As part of the arrangement the University let the sports facilities to other community sports clubs (eg rugby, football & cricket) and the income from such lettings contributes towards the cost of maintaining and managing the pitches. All income derived under the arrangement with the University is reinvested in the facility.

### **How many hours are the pitches used by Cotham School?**

The attached document indicates the amount of use the football and rugby pitches are subject to in accordance with the latest booking information provided by the University. Obviously the actual use depends on the weather. The pitches at Stoke Lodge are not constructed to the necessary Sport England standard and as such are unable to support the 7 hours a week play considered possible for such pitches. However, for ease of reference each pitch has been allocated 7 hours of play - allocated randomly merely for illustrative purposes to show possible spare capacity.

### **What happens if Cotham School become an academy?**

In the event that Cotham become an Academy, based on previously dealt with cases, under the current legislation they would be entitled to a 125 year lease of the Stoke Lodge Playing Fields. This lease would only permit the school to use the land for educational sporting purposes, they would not be able to dispose of the site or use or develop it for any other purpose. Any such lease would incorporate an arrangement whereby the facilities would be available to be used by local sports teams. The school will need to consider the risks involved in permitting open informal recreational access, dog walking etc. As long as the risks can be minimised the school have indicated that they are happy to continue to use the pitches on the current shared basis.

### **What proposals have the Council got for the site?**

The Council would like to invest in the site to improve the facilities. The first priority would be the replacement of the changing rooms which are not fit for purpose. Pitch improvements in the form of drainage would be considered (this may include some levelling) as would better access and parking. Fencing has been discussed, but the implications and benefits of this need to be fully investigated. The level of improvements will be limited by the availability of funding.

### **Where is the funding coming from?**

In the event that other playing fields within the City are disposed of, the Council has approval from the Secretary of State to allocate £1million towards improvements to Stoke Lodge Playing Fields. The Council has had informal discussions with the Football Foundation who have indicated that they are willing to consider a bid for funding to a maximum of 50% of that put forward by the Council. The Foundation would only make available money to pitches that are used by local sports clubs.

## Stoke Lodge Pitch Bookings

Bristol University manages the bookings on the Stoke Lodge Playing Fields for both school and community use.

The Stoke Lodge Facilities comprise :-

- 5 full sized football pitches
- 2 junior pitches (60m by 40m)
- 4 mini pitches (50m by 30m)
- 1 full sized rugby pitch

In Summer athletics track & cricket wicket is set out plus additional lines for field sports (javelin, discus) and 2 Long jump areas

## School Use

The information provided relating to existing bookings is as follows;

- On average, throughout the school year ie in term time, ~~the school~~ have six to eight hours of curriculum *bookings* on the Stoke Lodge Playing Fields (ie the whole facility). Actual use is on average five hours per week, which equates to approx 3 pitches for five hours each. The school usually park and change at Coombe Dingle and walk over to Stoke Lodge for football and rugby.
- Cotham School uses the all-weather pitch at Coombe Dingle as well as the netball and tennis courts. This equates to 5 hours use of the all-weather pitch (for hockey, training and football depending on condition of grass pitches & availability of staff for supervision etc) plus 5 hours of 2 hard courts for netball or tennis. This use is subject to the goodwill and co-operation of various other users who have priority of these facilities during school time. NB There is no capacity at all for any further use of grass pitches at Coombe Dingle at any time for any user bearing in mind that a pitch if constructed to a good standard and maintained appropriately will only have the capacity to support a maximum of 7 hours a week.
- 'After School' use for school matches, occurs approximately one evening a week 2 hours max from 4pm, every other week during the school term this equates to an average of 1 hour per week for 2 pitches.
- The school uses Stoke Lodge for football, rugby, athletics and orienteering during these pre-mentioned times. Different sports taking place at different times of the year and actual usage depends on weather and surface condition.
- Many off pitch areas are used for training grids and skills work

### Community Sports Use

- **Shire Colts FC** – four pitches on Sunday am and four on Sunday pm during the football season (ie from the end August to end May/June)
- – three to four junior pitches on Saturday am and one full size pitch on Sunday am during the football season as from 2010 - 2011
- **Bristol University** – four football and one rugby pitch on Wednesdays afternoon between 1 – 4 or 5 pm
- – Sunday morning use of the rugby pitch during the winter season as required (ie from the end August to end May/June)
- **Coombe Dingle Crusaders juniors** – two junior football pitches on Saturdays during the football season
- **GWR Shunters Cricket Club** – approx nine home matches during the summer. Several hours a week in the summer (w/e and evenings)
- Various corporate cricket bookings during the summer depending on pitch availability at Coombe Dingle.

Sport England guidelines advise that if a pitch is built to the Sport England specification it will have an average carrying capacity of 7 hours use per week. This is an average and depends on weather and whether adult or junior use and may change from week to week. The Stoke Lodge pitches are not built to these standards – they are deficient in terms of drainage and levels

Please see next page for indicative table of pitch bookings

Rugby					Uni Wed pm	Uni Wed pm	
FB						Uni Wed pm	
FB						Uni Wed pm	
FB		Uni Wed pm	Uni Wed pm	Uni Wed pm	Uni Wed pm	Uni Wed pm	
FB	Shire sun am	Shire sun am	Shire sun am	Shire sun am			
FB	Shire sun pm	Shire sun pm	Shire sun pm	Shire sun pm			
FB							
FB Jnr	Crus sat	Crus sat					
FB Jnr							
FB Mini							
FB Mini							
FB Mini							
FB Mini							

**Key:**

Shire Colts Football Club

Coombe Dingle Crusaders Juniors Football Club

Bristol University Football and Rugby Clubs

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