

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member (Cultural Services)

**DATE:** 24 July 2009

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Community Services  
(Parks Development Manager - Trish McLaughlin )

**SUBJECT:** **Killinghall Moor Football – Pitch Rent Refund**

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** Saltergate and Harlow Moor

**FORWARD PLAN REF:** N/A

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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** To provide background to the request from Harold Styan Football Club and Harrogate CSC FC for a refund of pitch rental charges for the 08/09 season.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

**2.1** Reduce next year's invoice for charges relating to matches that were either postponed or cancelled

**2.2** Reduce the pitch rental fees for all clubs for future hire of the pitches available at Killinghall Moor.

**3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON/S FOR DECISION/S**

**3.1** Due to continuing drainage issues at Killinghall Moor, the condition of the pitch is further deteriorating making it, on occasion, unfit for the club to play league matches.

**3.2** A short-term rental reduction for all clubs acknowledges the poor quality of the pitches. The rental charges can then be revised once a solution is applied. A rental reduction on these terms should make it less likely that clubs will ask for further refunds at the end of each season.

**4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION/S CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR**

## **REJECTION**

- 4.1** Without providing a reduction on next year's rental charge, it is likely the clubs will protest. The pitch may then not be let next season, leading to a reduction in income and the need to find an alternative pitch for the clubs to play on.

## **5.0 THE REPORT**

- 5.1** Prior to the 08/09 season, drainage works were undertaken at Killinghall Moor, although these works were not applied to the pitch where Harold Styan FC and Harrogate CSC FC played.
- 5.2** A review of previous drainage works applied to all pitches is planned to take place, but due to staff shortages within the Development Team, very little progress has been made.
- 5.3** It is estimated that the cost for drainage improvements is in the region of £20,000 to £25,000 per pitch. 4 pitches are played. A sum of £50,000 has been built into the draft 106 agreement for the Penny Pot Northern development proposals towards the pitch drainage. This will only become available when development starts on site, if the development is approved. The proposed development is at an early stage in the planning process and no decision on this is expected in the near future.
- 5.4** There are not sufficient funds available in current budgets to drain all of the pitches.
- 5.5** The Secretary of Harold Styan Football Club wrote to the Council on 23.05.09 requesting the reimbursement of pitch rental charges to cover the games when the pitch was unfit for use. The secretary of Harrogate CSC wrote to the Council on 23.06.09 requesting the reimbursement of pitch rental to cover charges when the pitch was unfit for use.
- 5.6** The Harold Styan Secretary claims that 17 matches were postponed (charges were still incurred) and 3 matches were cancelled. The Harrogate CSC Secretary claims that 2 matches were cancelled.
- 5.7** The Harold Styan Secretary has provided evidence that 5 matches were either cancelled or postponed, in order to support his claim. Details were provided for the two games cancelled by the Harrogate CSC Secretary.
- 5.8** The pitch rental charge for the 08/09 season was £487. On average a team plays 20 home matches.
- 5.9** The proposed refund/reduction has been calculated by cost per

season/number of potential home matches, plus an allowance of £5 per game to cover telephone charges etc.

$£487/20 = £24.35$  per home match plus  $£5.00 = £29.35$  per match

Therefore, the proposed refund/reduction for Harold Styan FC for 5 cancelled/postponed matches (which have been verified) is:

**$5 \times £29.35 = £146.75$**

For Harrogate CSC, the proposed refund/reduction for 2 cancelled/postponed matches is:

**$2 \times £29.35 = £58.70$**

Proposed rental charge for the 09/10 = £362.25 (full charge for 09/10 season is £509).

## 6.0 CONCLUSION/S

6.1 It is concluded that both clubs have suffered disruption to their games and as a result should receive a refund or a reduction from next year's invoice.

6.2 The review of the condition of pitches should be undertaken in order to improve the facility to ensure future disruption is minimised.

## Background Papers -

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact Trish McLaughlin if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Brandreth House, by telephone on 0845 3006091 or by Email – [patricia.mclaughlin@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.mclaughlin@harrogate.gov.uk)

## SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT / POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy		X	
B	Environment		X	
C	Social Equity			
i)	General			
ii)	Customer Care / People with Disabilities		X	
iii)	Health Implications			
D	Crime and Disorder Implications		X	

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable.