

Dowson Field update
KLTC - July, 2021

Council is asked to note and discuss this interim report from the Properties Working Group.

Our enquiries around the practicalities of providing parking provision in part of the Dowson Field are not complete. We opted to work on the basis that the provision of parking spaces, including disabled spaces, would benefit the young people of the parish and surrounding area.

We have enquiries still outstanding with the Charity Commissioners regarding parking, and the town's cricket club, regarding their own access. These relate to

- (a) The town council's ability to provide parking space on a plot designated as a playing field for the benefit of the young people of the parish and surrounding area;
- (b) Access by cricket club vehicles to their clubhouse area from the Devil's Bridge entrance.

Currently, the working group considers that when considering the provision of parking facilities in part of Dowson Field, the following should be part of any final agreement:

1. The parking area shall be in an area close to the boundary trees;
2. The parking area shall accommodate no more than 20 vehicles.
3. The parking area shall include disabled vehicle spaces - number to be decided.
4. The parking area shall be open for use only on football and cricket club match days.
5. The parking area shall be environmentally friendly, using grasscrete or equivalent.
6. The parking area shall be constructed by one or both clubs at their cost to a specification agreed with the town council.
7. The town council's responsibilities for insurance, maintenance, damage, and all other matters related to the provision of parking shall begin and end inside the boundaries of the Dowson Field.
8. There shall be no charge for the provision of parking spaces on condition that the cricket and football clubs take responsibility for repair and maintenance of the entire Dowson Field.

The working group has identified the following possible difficulties in providing parking on the Dowson Field.

1. Access will probably be by way of the old cart track. This will take vehicles across grazing land.
2. The town council may be charged to enable vehicles to cross said grazing land. It has already been suggested the the two sports clubs will be charged by the landowner.
3. The playing field is for the use of all the young people of the parish. Therefore other potential users may ask for parking permission at any time.
4. A means of preventing unauthorised use of parking spaces outside permitted times must be found.

IN CONCLUSION: The working group cannot make a comprehensive recommendation to council at this time. Council is asked to note this report and to authorise the working group to continue with its investigations.

Councillors Ree, Tatham and Muirhead