

Raikes Road working Group meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm

7 Residents, 3 Town Councillors, 4 members of staff, 2 Embsay Football Club

Chair Councillor David Noland

Amy – Skipton Ladies Football team, Fiona Lines, James Kerr, Laura McNamara, Damian Riley, David Marshall, Dereck Blackwell.

Bernard Boylan– Embsay FC

Boyd Webster – Embsay FC

Mark Robinson / Dale Wilkinson – Estates team

Cllr Noland, Nash, Madeley

Louise Close - Chief Officer / Jenny Dean - Deputy Clerk

Councillor Noland chaired the meeting, and began by thanking everyone for coming, and explaining the aim of the meeting was to move forward, answer any questions and agree upon actions required which would need to be approved by Full Council as this is an informal meeting.

Introductions were made and agreed that the list of questions compiled from the various correspondence received would be taken in turn.

Questions

- 1. What assurances can be made that Skipton Town Council will remain owners of Raikes Rec and that it will remain for public use and accessible by anyone?**

No plans to sell off Raikes Road. The Council want to make the best of the space.

The Rec remains a public space accessible by everyone.

Residents asked for assurance that no other agreements would be entered into with other football clubs, so that other than the times that Embsay Juniors use the pitch it would remain accessible for the public to use.

Councillors advised that this needs to be discussed and agreed at a Full Council Meeting.

The pitch needs time to bed in, and it is not clear yet if there will be an increase in informal games of football, or if other formal teams will request to use the pitch.

Councillor Madeley raised that a Lease with Embsay Juniors will give exclusivity and therefore a license may be more appropriate. This is not just a football pitch but a park for people to play on. And that Embsay Juniors using the Raikes Rec is temporary until they get a new home.

*Agreed to establish what the most appropriate form of agreement to have with the Football Club, and to take the agreement to Full Council for approval, following a draft being viewed by this working group. To ask Full Council to not enter into any agreements with other football clubs for the next two years until the pitch has bedded in.*

2. **Would the Council be looking to seek extra protection for the open space at Raikes Recreation Ground, perhaps applying for Fields in Trusts help, such as has happened to Gawflat Meadow within Aireville Park? The extra protection would allow for its use to remain the same but would reassure the local community that in the future the space will remain for the people.**

This is an issue that Full Council will need to consider in the future.

3. **How is it proposed the pitch will be seeded and the landscape maintained going forward and will Sport England's financial involvement influence this?**

The pitch has already been seeded, and will be maintained by the Town Council's Estate Team as it was previously. If the pitch itself requires extra mowing before a match, the football club will do this.

4. **How will Raikes Recreation Ground be maintained in an organic way.**

The Estates Team advised that they no longer use pesticides on any of the Town Council managed sites, and therefore this will remain the case for Raikes Road. The football club will put the lines down to mark this pitch, and chalk is used for this.

5. **What type of building is being proposed?**

The Club were proposing a 9ft by 9ft structure to store balls and equipment. Following concerns raised by residents about a structure providing a place for people to hide behind and obstructing the line of site when entering the rec, effecting the feeling of safety, the Football Club agreed that they would change their request to be a lower level container.

The Nets would be wheeled and moved to the side and padlocked together in between games.

*Agreement to include a lower level storage unit, which would be removed by the club when the agreement ends.*

6. **What controls on other teams wanting to use the pitch will be in place to stop the Recreation Ground becoming a majority football usage?**

See earlier comments at Number 1. It was discussed that as time goes on some issues may need to be revisited in the future when it becomes clear how the space is being used.

7. **Parking –**

Councillor Noland would like fewer cars as possible, and asked the club where their players were driving from. The Club reported that 48% of their players come from the Raikes and Rockwood area so should be walking. Most players are 12/13years of age so often parents drop them off and pick them up so do not park for the duration of the game. The Club will communicate with parents and visiting teams about sensible parking and idling of engines, encouraging car sharing. The Club have an agreement with White Hills driving range for car parking. A message is sent every week to all players. Signs could be put in place about responsible parking and not idling engines.

It was asked if it could be encouraged for people to use a small opening through the hedge on White Hills Lane. A gap could be made for people to access and a bridge making over the ditch. The Estates Team reported that they had requested that this be done in the past but the request was declined by North Yorkshire Council.

*Estates Team to make enquires about the hedge opening again with North Yorkshire Council.*

*The Football Club will put together a Traffic Management Plan. The agreement to include terms relating to parking.*

**8. If parking becomes an issue for residents, what control measures can be put in place?**

*Councillor Noland will speak with the North Yorkshire Highways department to ask for their advice on this, and to see if they have any suggestions. He will also ask about the cutting back of the hedge on White Hills Lane.*

**9. Will the speed of White Hills Lane be looked at, as with increased numbers of children accessing the park the 40mph limit seems a serious risk.**

There was a discussion about Stirton and how they had a 30mph limit put in place. There is a legal process that needs to be followed for this, and this can be costly.

*Councillor Noland to get advice from NYC Highways regarding this.*

**10. Will there be protections in place against the potential request for artificial lighting?**

No request is being put in for lighting, and there are no plans to.

**11. Will there be protections against the pitch being fenced off so that the general public cannot access it.**

No fencing requests have been made or are planned. An FA respect banner would be used whilst a match is on to provide an area for spectators to stand. This is made from stakes and tape and is removed after the game.

**12. Prior to the landscaping work anyone could play football on the park using the goal posts and the nets attached to them. Will this still be the case, or will Embsay Juniors be looking to use wheeled / moveable goals they can only bring out for matches, thus rendering the pitch less useful for a local kick about?**

Concerns were raised about the proximity of the pitch to the toddlers play area. The Football Club will mark the pitch further from the play area if possible.

There was a discussion about the existing adult size goals, and the goals and size of the pitch to be used by the football club.

Councillor Nash asked if there was enough space around the pitch to allow players to 'run off', the Football club confirmed there was.

There was a discussion around the path around the pitch and whether there was enough space for dog walkers. The Estates Team confirmed that the path would be as wide as it was before, and work on this would be completed as soon as possible.

*Agreed that the old/adult size goals will remain in place to allow informal games to be played, as was the case before. A junior size pitch will be marked out by the Football Club. For each game they will wheel out their goals and put them away following the game.*

**13. Will Embsay Juniors be looking at installing facilities in the future for toilets / showering and changing?**

No changing or toilets have been requested. White Hills Driving Range do have facilities that they can use, along with facilities to buy a coffee.

**14. If the pitches playing surface sinks, and requires repairing, or if drainage proves to be an issue, who will rectify it?**

The Football Club will maintain the pitch and repair. The Football Club had planned to install drainage, but had stopped this work whilst the issues raised by residents were discussed. They have some of their budget allocated for drainage. The Estates Team felt that there would be natural drainage from the majority of the pitch but some sections may need some drainage work in the future.

*Agreed to monitor the pitch over the winter to identify if and where drainage is required. The Football Club will undertake the drainage work if it is required.*

**15. How will the hedge be repaired and re-planted**

The hedge way was used for access, with the Farmers permission gained for using the lane. The Hedge was checked for nesting birds. The hedge will be replanted, but will wait for the drainage work to be assessed.

The Trees will be replanted, and the Estates Team are working with the Scouts to organise this.

**Other Issues discussed:**

Can Dogs/ Dog Walkers still use the area and be let off the lead? – *Yes, they can be can let dogs off the lead. The football club will pick up any dog waste before games.*

Could a Notice board be put at the Recreational ground – *This will be put on a Council Meeting Agenda for consideration.*

Concerns were raised about noise and bad language disturbing local residents- *The Football Club take player conduct very seriously, and any incidents would be dealt with.*

A draft agreement/license will be put together and circulated to members of this working group prior to it going to the Full Council for Approval.

20.30pm meeting closed.