

Appendix I

Sheepcote Development WG

Report to Council 10th March 2025

The Development working group was given new ToRs in October 24 and the Council granted funds to engage with SODC in the form of a pre Application for the Sheepcot. In order to prepare this document the WG started a process of information gathering.

In November 24 BU and SL met with a representative from Rotherfield (Andy Tidswell) who provided an in depth insight into the process they had been following for their All weather pitch installation and the process they were following.

The WG decided that it should also meet with the Oxfordshire Football Association in order to understand the process that was required to develop the Sheepcote facilities, Pavillion and ground.

Contact was made with Andy Earnshaw from Oxford FA and we met with him and Cath Davies from the Football Foundatin on 9th January 25. They confirmed that Goring and its burgeoning successful football clubs fitted the criteria for support. They outlined the process that is required to access funding for what could be 70% of overall costs for an All weather pitch (AWP) installation, we discussed the Open spaces report and the neighbourhood Plan plus the current set up of pitches, games played and future needs. We also met with Joe Cherrington on 23rd January, Joe is the technical advisor for the Football Foundation and was able to provide advice on our current facilities versus what would be required to support an AWP. It would appear that a refurbishment of current facilities may work , with a small extension for additional toilets, storage etc

Having now received the extensive paperwork requirements to complete in order to progress the grounds development and having some concern about the type of product used to finish the surface of an AWP we went back to the FF and are awaiting outcomes of alternative surfaces being trialed and hopefully a statement from DEFRA who are looking at this.

We have met once again as a WG and have requested that this WG now become a committee so that we can move on: co -opts are Tomi Wills (Robins), Tim Monk (Goring United) and Jane Cartledge (Tennis)

Phase 1

Pre Ap

Re -design Pavilion including new kitchen

Extension for Pavilion

Improved Parking and storage

Identify funding for phase 1

Visit Henley to discuss their AWP journey (March 12th)