

## **Provision of an outdoor table tennis table**

1. The original request for this came from the Parish Council following a suggestion from Cllr Chris Griffiths, who had been prompted by seeing use of outdoor tables in other areas, and discussion and support from the Table Tennis Club. The request was put to Broadmayne Playing Field Association (BPFA).
2. BPFA then investigated the idea. Discussions were held with Dorchester Town Council which has such tables. These discussions indicated varied usage that tends to go in spates, with tables well used at times. Their advice was to go for a solid concrete fixed table (including net) suitable for all year round use outdoors without protection, and with rounded corners for safety.
3. Canvassing of various age groups and users of playing field indicated enthusiasm and support generally. A few comments were received questioning how much use a table would get. Some concerns were raised over siting.
4. Type of table:
  - Tables made from recycled materials are generally not as substantial; these are smaller tables aimed at use by children. Mainly moveable, on wheels and folding, need to be stored indoors in winter.
  - Concrete tables – various prices/types available, some moveable but with ground fixings if desired, cheaper versions recommend protection in winter.
5. BPFA conclusions after investigation:
  - Various sites discussed, only suitable site in midst of group of fitness equipment alongside the children's play area
  - Table must be fixed in position
  - Table must be full size, to provide suitability for all age groups
  - Concrete coloured table and net, rounded corners on table
  - Table must be suitable for year round outdoor use without protection, hence little or no maintenance
  - Protective surface/matting needed at either end of table
6. Suppliers contacted:
  - Playcrete - £2500 + vat
  - Concrete Sports Ltd - £2245 + vat
  - Mant Leisure - £3185 + vat
  - Redlynch Leisure - £3425 + vat

All prices include delivery and installation

Protective Matting:

- Wessex Grounds Services - £395.00 + vat

## **7. BPFA Recommendation:**

Mant Leisure   £3185 + vat   +   WGS       £395 + vat

**Total                    £3580 + vat**

The proposed table from Mant Leisure and Redlynch is identical to that installed in Borough Gardens by Dorchester Town Council. It is more aesthetically pleasing and of a solid construction to withstand all weather without protection. It is constructed with double steel layers and all in one piece so the table cannot be dismantled or moved. The table surface, net and table legs are one complete unit.

8. Financing of this project:

At the September Parish Council meeting, Cllr Toogood indicated that BPFA would be unable to fund the provision of the table, and there was general agreement that this was an initiative which could be funded using the neighbourhood proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money which the Parish Council holds. Developers are required to pay this levy to the planning authority, the sum payable being dependent on the nature of the development. The amount presently held by Broadmayne PC is £11,822.16.

CIL funding can be used for:

- The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure needed to support development.
- Anything else that helps to address the demands that new development is placing on their area.

This is a broad definition and allows some flexibility on the way in which the neighbourhood proportion can be spent.

The table would be purchased by the Parish Council and would remain the property of the Parish Council (as the Fitness Trail is); it will therefore be possible to reclaim the VAT.

If Councillors wish to proceed with the purchase and installation of the table the proposal will need to be formally proposed, seconded and resolved.

Cllr Sam Toogood  
Janet Davis, Clerk

September 2021