

Agenda Item 10 – Community Asset List Nomination

The Mayfield Cricket Ground

Reasons why the Mayfield Cricket Ground should be put on the list of Assets of Community Value.

The main use of this community sporting asset furthers the social wellbeing, recreational and sporting interests of the community. It is a vital part of our important and valuable green infrastructure.

The cricket ground is a green and open space in the village of Mayfield that allows residents of all ages to access and use the facilities. This is especially important for children and youths who can independently reach the grounds by both walking on a pavement or by cycling on relatively safe village roads.

It has a vital social aspect for both players and supporters and caters for all abilities and is therefore an integral part of the village lifestyle. It enables invaluable work with youths from Mayfield and Five Ashes, teaching them cricketing skills and the sporting rules of fair play, including social skills and life lessons such as winning and losing.

It also provides social recreation, fitness and well being for the wider Sussex community as a venue for regular cricket matches and other social events. It is therefore very important that this recreational green space is retained by the village.

It promotes the economic vibrancy and amenity of Mayfield village when visiting teams from all over Sussex come to play competitive matches and is a great draw from the point of view of the visiting tourist trade.

The pavilion is used by local organisations and societies as a meeting place and provides premises for social events within the local community. Social functions include birthday celebrations, wedding receptions and televising popular sporting events. All such social occasions can be accessed by local residents on foot and the main use of the asset furthers the social wellbeing, recreational and sporting interests of the local community.

History of the Mayfield Cricket Ground

The Mayfield Cricket ground was purchased in 1995 for the sum of £9500 with additional costs of £500 for legal fees and £750 for security fencing. A grant from lottery funding of £6950 was obtained as well as £1500 from Sussex County Playing Fields and £1000 from the Percy Bilton Charity. The remaining £1300 came from members and local subscriptions. The Parish Council gave £2000 and Wealden gave £200 towards the cost of laying drains. It was therefore a community endeavour intended to benefit the parish of Mayfield and Five Ashes and to enhance the recreational opportunities and social well-being available to all local residents in perpetuity.

The land was transferred to the Mayfield Cricket Club with the following covenant: The Purchasers and their successors in title assigns covenants with the Vendor and its successors in title and assigns so as to bind the land hereby conveyed and each and every part or parts thereof into whosoever hands the same may come not to use the land hereby transferred or any part or parts thereof or any building erected or to be erected thereon otherwise than for the purposes of cricket matches and associated leisure and sports facilities. This is entered in the Charges Register of Title Register ESX 202485 included with this application.

Cllr Patricia Balfour

Background Information

The Community Right to Bid was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 that enables Parish Councils a greater chance to bid on properties or land that become available and would be of benefit to the community.

In order for land or property to be affected by the Community Right to Bid rules its main use must further the social well-being or interests of the local community, or have done so in the last five years and be likely to do so in the future. This use may include the provision of public, sport, recreation, culture or community services.

Once the nomination is received by WDC they check that it meets the criteria for acceptance set out in legislation. If this is confirmed it will be added to the List of Assets of Community Value and to the land charges register. The nomination will remain on the community assets list for five years. The nominating group and the landowner will be informed of the decision to list and the grounds for an appeal set out.

*Once Wealden District Council is notified that the owner of land on the 'list of community assets' intends to dispose of the listed asset, there would be a window of six weeks for the Parish Council to decide if they would like to make a bid on the property. If the Parish Council submits a notice of an intention to make a bid, a protected period ('moratorium') of six months is activated. During this time the property owner may not sell or otherwise dispose of the asset. At the end of the six-month period the owner may choose to sell the property to **whomever** they choose.*

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at the time of the Council making a decision on whether to nominate Mayfield Cricket Ground to be listed as a community asset. If and when the Cricket Club does decide to sell the land it could potentially delay their sale for six months if the Parish Council did decide to make a bid after considering the financial implications.