

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date: 25 October 2016
Title: Church Meadow Cricket Ground – Telecoms Apparatus
Contact Officer: Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide background to a commercial approach from Shared Access to install telecoms apparatus at Church Meadow Cricket Ground.

Background

2. After establishing land ownership, Shared Access made an approach by letter to Thame Town Council in relation to the installation of Telecoms Apparatus at Church Meadow Cricket Ground. The letter was circulated to all Councillors on 19 September 2016 and the covering e-mail and letter are included in the drop box.
3. There are advantages and disadvantages to consider, with the following possibly the key ones.
4. Key disadvantage: Impact on the Conservation Area.
5. Key advantage: Revenue – the Budget Working Group is concerned on budget pressures and has asked for ways of revenue to be increased. The offer from Shared Access is a starting point – there is potential to negotiate for a significantly higher initial payment and subsequent annual payments, all of benefit to the town's precept payers. There would be no restriction on what the revenue could be used for.
6. The cricket club have also stated: "*The same company contacted us last year, and I said we would speak to yourselves about the proposal - before I did this they wrote again to say that they had found a 'better' site and wouldn't be pursuing it. I am aware of several conditions that the operators require, which may render the proposal a non-starter, but if the Council as landlords approve the principle, we would welcome anything that will provide any element of additional funding towards the new clubhouse development.*" They have further verbally added (paraphrased): "*I am worried that the mast would be above the tree line. I have concerns that they would need 24/7 access and are likely to include rights that could cause problems in the future*".

Action Required

7. To consider the letter, and agree an outline / key points of any response, or any other appropriate next steps.