

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	4 April 2017
Title:	Shared Access Approach - Telecoms Apparatus
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk Janine Howells, Asset Manager

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide a verbal / written update on the commercial approach from Shared Access to install telecoms apparatus at Southern Road Recreation Ground.

Background (as at 24 January 2017)

2. It was agreed at Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee on 25 October 2016, that given the potential revenue opportunity, that a meeting should be arranged with Shared Access to gain further information.
3. The meeting was held on 7 November 2016 where Southern Road Recreation Ground was additionally identified as a potential site. An update was provided by e-mail to all Councillors.
4. The revenues being received by various other organisations in similar circumstances were established to assist our negotiations.
5. Further negotiations resulted in some limited movement by Shared Access, but only to a position they had previously stated and still a long way off what has been paid in the past.
6. The terms demanded for the cricket ground site proved too much and concentration now is just at Southern Road Recreation Ground.
7. Further negotiations specifically related to Southern Road Recreation Ground resulted in no improved offer, but a willingness to discuss further.
8. Further updates have been provided to all Councillors throughout and further advice provided on potential negotiating positions. Further facts were also established from other more comparable Town Councils.

Update (as at 28 March 2017)

9. Further to the discussions at the Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee on 24 January 2017, negotiations were re-opened by the Town Clerk with Shared Access in line with the discussions held and as circulated to all Councillors. This resulted in an improved offer which also includes a lighting solution, as circulated to all Councillors on 9 February 2017.
10. The radio planners undertook a Multi Skilled Visit (MSV) visit at Southern Road Recreation Ground on 14 March 2017. The MSV entailed radio technology operatives assessing feasibility of the site and mast design. By carrying out this task the mobile network operators can establish the extent of coverage (broadband and 4G) that the proposed infrastructure would deliver and establish the site viability.

11. The MSV does not commit the Council to any agreement with Shared Access.
12. Further trial pits and geotechnical investigations will now be progressed.
13. As a result of the MSV, Shared Access identified 2 potential sites for the telecoms apparatus. One immediately north-west of the changing rooms, but rejected by officers as it would block direct vehicular access into the Recreation Ground. The only remaining potential site is immediately to the south-west of the changing rooms.
14. The lighting solution would be deployed on a separate single pole adjacent to the existing metal gate.
15. If provisional approval is granted by the Town Council, Shared Access will execute all relevant public consultation and planning processes.
16. It is recommended that a Steering Group is now established with appropriate delegated authority, including agreement of all legal aspects via the Town Council's solicitors.

Action Required

17. To note the report, and while preserving relevant commercial confidentiality, to consider any other appropriate next steps, which may include provisional approval and the establishment of a Steering Group.