

Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council



Pitch Improvement Programme

Revisit Report

Supported by

GROUNDS & NATURAL TURF IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Please note this report has been produced on the basis of evidence found during the visit and is for guidance purposes only

19/12/2018

Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council



Section One – Background to the initial visit

Overall Summary of initial visit

The reason for the visit was to carry out a PIP revisit to the site on behalf of the Essex CFA.

The pitches at the ground have previously been maintained by Brentwood Borough Council but are in the process of being transferred over to Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council so that they can maintain the pitches themselves, this should be handed over to them early 2019,

The initial report was carried out in December 2017 as part of the counties Pitch Improvement Programme and made the following comments about all pitches at the ground at that time:

All 4 pitches at the ground were all in need of a better maintenance program if they are to improve in the long term, Worms, weeds were present along with high compaction readings which was having an effect on the drainage of the pitches due to the heavy clay soils that make up the profile, the un-desirable grasses % was on the high side along with the amount of bare areas across the pitches and this will only get worse the longer the season goes on, presentation of the pitches needs to be improved and the goalmouth surface levels need to be improved at the end of the season particularly on the main 11v11 one nearest the changing rooms.

All of the goalposts, both adult and mini soccer ones are un-satisfactory and do not comply with BSEN and in need of replacing. If budgets are tight then consider just focusing on the high wear areas of all pitches and the below actions should look to be carried out.

All pitches were over-used and bare and suffered from the playing being poor draining due to compaction and the amount of thatch/organic matter that was located within the soil profile which in part was causing the worm casting and number of weeds present on the surface.

Recommendations from the initial report included the following:

- In-season maintenance
- Worm & Weed Control
- Aeration/Decompaction
- Surface levels in high use areas
- Fertilizers Regime
- Full end of season renovations
- Fixed Goalpost conditions



Section two – Club/Site/Pitch details

Club/Organisation:	Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council		
Address:	Seymour Playing Fields, Ingatestone, Essex	Postcode:	CM4 0HH
Groundsman/Club Official in Attendance:	Abigail Wood/Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer		
Tel:	01277 353315	Mob:	01277 353315
Email:	clerk@ingatestone-fryerningpc.gov.uk		
Pitch Advisor:	Phil Jeggo		
Date of initial Visit:	19/12/2017	Date of follow up Visit:	19/12/2018

Section Three – Pitch works

Action carried out:	PIP report recommendation:	Improvement made:
No actions have been carried out	No	No
Since the initial visit, this is down to	No	No
The time taken for the maintenance	No	No
To be transferred over from the	No	No
Borough Council to the Parish Council	No	No
	No	No

Section Four – Machinery

Item:	Make/model:	Total Cost:	External funder (if applicable):
No additional machinery added since initial report	N/A		N/A
All machinery used at the ground is owned, operated	N/A		N/A
and maintained by the local	N/A		N/A
Authority/Parish Council	N/A		N/A
No machinery owned by the club	N/A		N/A

Section Five – Cancellations

Number of cancellations initial visit:	10	Number of cancellations follow up visit:	Choose an item. None
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Section Six – Budget

Pitch maintenance budget initial visit:	None	Pitch maintenance budget follow up visit:	None
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Section Seven – Training

Training undertaken since the initial visit:	None	IOG Membership:	No
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Section Eight – Club comments

While the parish council welcomed the initial PIP report and the advice and recommendations within it due to unforeseen circumstances no additional work has yet to be carried out to improve the quality of them, they are awaiting the hand over of the maintenance from the local borough council to themselves which should occur early in 2019 and when this happens they can start implanting some of the key priorities from within the initial report and also the revisit report highlighting the current issues with the pitches at the ground.

Section Nine – Outcome/Additional comments

Out of the 4 pitches found at Seymour playing fields 3 have shown an improvement from the initial visit carried out 12 months ago and have gone from “Inadequate” to “Lower Basic” grading using the PQS tested during the revisit, the reason these 3 pitches have improved is down to the ground cover % being recorded higher second time around,

This is mainly down to the weather conditions we have experienced this year and the fact that junior/mini football is only played at the ground now reducing the normal heavy wear and tear that you would receive from adult 11 v 11 across the pitches,

No additional work has been carried out to improve the standards of them because of the reasons mentioned above in the club comments section and also the number of cancellations has reduced from the initial visit but this more down to the weather than the pitch conditions

Although 3 pitches have improved, this paints a false picture as there is still numerous issues with them that should look to be resolved through a better all-round maintenance programme to be put in place once the hand over of this is completed next year if they are to improve in the future,

The pitches at the time of my visit although slightly improved was still suffering from the following issues:

- Weeds
- Pest & Diseases in the form of worm casting and the turf disease “Red Thread”
- Compaction recordings at a depth starting from 100 mm down – 300 mm within the soil profile
- Thatch
- Desirable Grasses %
- Goalpost condition

- Pitch Surface levels as a result of the number of worm castings

The advice and recommendations from the initial report should still be followed where possible and in particular the key maintenance actions listed below:

The senior adult goalpost conditions need addressing - Goalposts should adhere to health and safety regulations BSEN 748 (2004) and BS 8462 (2005).

Read more at <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/goalpost-safety#maFqRpWmlkssVsyG.99>. At the time of the visit some sets of goalposts were not satisfactory must be repaired or replaced immediately. Speak to your County FA for further information.

Ideally if these and all the fixed goalpost found at the ground can be replaced with new portable sets of goalposts this will help with pitch rotation in the future to help reduce the wear and tear in the high use areas of these pitches year after year.

Decompaction/Aeration:

A decompaction operation is essential for aeration to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the profile increase drainage and improve the breakdown of organic matter (thatch). This will increase the infiltration of water through the soil profile and help the problem of waterlogging.

Instigate a programme of deep decompaction operations to be conducted twice annually (October & May) with a vertical action machine at using 18-24mm tines at 100mm spacing's to achieve maximum heave and penetration without compromising surface integrity. If funds permit conduct further (2) linear aeration and decompaction operations during the winter month's dependent on ground conditions. If funds are limited concentrate operations in identified areas suffering from greater levels of compaction.

An intermittent surface aeration programme would be beneficial for example slitting and/or spiking every 2-4 weeks when conditions allow.

Weed Treatment:

If required Spray the pitches with a suitable selective herbicide in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, a site-specific risk assessment and in accordance with COSHH best practice. This should be done when the grass is growing strongly. Spraying should be carried out only by a qualified person with suitable equipment and in correct conditions. A shrouded sprayer should be used to minimize spray drift. This may need to be repeated later in spring if new weeds germinate and establish.

Fertilizers Application:

As soon as growth recommenced in early Spring (late March/early April) apply controlled release fertilizer of NPK 25-3-15 or similar to provide extended feeding program without rush of growth. Fertilizers of this type provide nutrient for up to 24 weeks and may negate the requirement for further "blanket" applications across the entire site.

Worm Control:

Worms conduct a valuable contribution to plant and soil health, breaking down excess organic matter, creating pore spaces and channels with the soil profile improving ingress of air, Water and nutrients. Sadly, this benefit is often negated by the detrimental effect of worm castings at the surface where they are easily smeared by foot or machine traffic creating muddy conditions, an uneven playing surface, smothering grasses and providing an ideal environment for weed seeds to germinate. Eradication of the worm population is neither practical nor achievable and managing both the population and the detrimental effects of casts is the favored option.

Annual applications of a worm depressant at the manufacturers recommended rate for worm control are the chemical option. Conducted during moist, warm weather when worms are most active. On basic level football pitches this is rarely the preferred option unless worms' casts become so abundant that machinery becomes clogged.

Mechanical control and management are favored through regular harrowing/drag matting/brushing of the surface when casts are in a dry enough condition to break up and spread without smearing of the turf surface.

Renovation:

Conduct a full end of season renovation of the pitches to include

Deep tine aeration,

Over-seeding with the desired ryegrass sports seed mix

Top dressing with a minimum of 60 tons using a suitable sports sand dressing. An 80/20, 70/30 or even a 50/50 sports sand/rootzone mix can be used within the goalmouths for added binding strength.

Also, as part of this renovation it will be important to eradicate any unwanted thatch layer through scarification to the appropriate depth

Worm casting below was very prominent across all pitches along with the disease "Red Thread" below



Section Ten – PQS Results

IOG PQS Table - Football Pitch - Mid Season - 2nd Visit									
Ingatestone & Fryerning			Pitch Location			Grading Results			
Assessment Criteria		Unit	Visit 1		Visit 2				
			Median	PQS Grade	Goal mouths	Centre Circle	Wing	Median	PQS Grade
1	Length of grass	mm	35	High	40	40	40	30	High
2	Total ground cover	%	60	Inadequate	75	75	75	75	Lower Basic
3	Desirable grasses	%	40	Inadequate	40	40	40	40	Inadequate
4	Weeds	%	15	Upper Basic	17	17	17	17	Lower Basic
5	Pests & Diseases	%	25	Inadequate	30	30	30	30	Inadequate
6	Thatch	%	30	Inadequate	30	30	30	30	Inadequate
7	Root depth	mm	70	Lower Basic	70	70	70	70	Lower Basic
8	Growing Medium	mm	80	Lower Basic	80	80	80	80	Lower Basic
9	Pitch surface levels	mm	15	Intermediate	20	20	20	20	Lower Basic
10	Compaction	Below Standard			<div></div> <div>NOTE- Inform Club and/or County FA ASAP as the Goal Posts may not comply with the FA Guidelines on Goalpost Safety</div>			Below Standard	
11	Goal posts	Below Standard						Below Standard	
12	Line Marking	Below Standard						Below Standard	
13	Surface debris	Below Standard						Below Standard	
14	Unofficial Use	Below Standard						Standard	
Performance Quality Standard 1st visit:					Inadequate				
Performance Quality Standard 2nd visit:					Lower Basic				
Pitch Advisor:					Phil Jeggo				
Date of of 2nd Assessment:					19th December 2018				

Before

After





Contact Information

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