

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL



Report Author	Naomi Crewe – Town Clerk
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Date	Tuesday 15th September 2020
Subject	Alkincoates Park MUGA Noise Complaint

PURPOSE:

1. To update Members on the progress of the noise complaint received by four residents in the Alkincoates Park Area.
2. For Members to discuss the possible next steps regarding the complaints received and actions which may be taken after Councillor's reviewed the MUGA.

BACKGROUND:

3. Prior to Colne Town Council (CTC), Pendle Borough Council (PBC) moved the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) from North Valley to Alkincoates Park.
4. Planning permission was granted to install the MUGA in the location it is now situated in.
5. CTC has received noise complaints from four residents in the area regarding the noise created when footballs bounce off the fencing.
6. CTC has monitored the noise created and run tests with a child and an adult male kicking a ball at the fencing directly and the noise level at the properties did not go above 68 decibels.
7. CTC have tried installing rubber washers/strips on the fencing to reduce the vibration caused when a football hits the fencing. However due to the recycled nature of the MUGA, this was unsuccessful.
8. CTC Officers have received a quote to replace the current fencing with a different sort of fencing (the same fencing that is round the Tennis Courts) as this is quieter when a football hits but is a lower standard of fencing.
9. The quote for the replacement of the fencing is £4080 (net) which includes labour, parts and removal of waste.
10. CTC does not have provision for this in the annual budget and would need to fund it out of the Earmarked Reserves for Playground Development.

RECOMMENDATION:

11. For Members to decide about the replacement of the fencing on the car park side of the Alkincoates MUGA.
12. For Members to agree that this work should take place and to authorise the Responsible Financial Officer to transfer the required funds from the Playgrounds Earmarked Reserves.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

13. Colne Town Council took on the MUGA as is and there are limited options of ways to reduce the sound it created.
14. Colne Town Council Officers have investigated other options including an internal fence, rubber washers/strips to reduce the vibration, making it lockable so can only be used at certain times but none have been feasible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The Playgrounds Earmarked reserves would be reduced from £135,000 to £130,920.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

16. Colne Town Council are considering the options for reducing the noise created by the fencing at Alkincoates MUGA and consider if they are prepared to take money from the Playgrounds Earmarked reserves to cover this cost.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

17. None specifically arising from this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

18. Playground Consultants
19. Pendle Borough Council Environmental Health Department

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

- None

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Naomi Crewe