

OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

As many of you will know, the Otterbourne Football Club, vacated Oakwood Park on 31st May 2016. There have been many enquiries for use of the football pitch and pavilion since then and the Parish Council has been examining the best use of the facilities, taking into account its primary use by residents, the restrictions we placed on further development of the ground, the impact a new Club or user might have on the amenity of local residents and the number of vehicle movements to and from the ground. Some of the Clubs examined were not suitable because we considered their requirements went beyond what we felt was reasonable and some of the Clubs were too small to give worthwhile revenue to help with the overhead costs of the pavilion and ground maintenance.

Eastleigh Football Club has come forward as the most suitable applicant with use proposed for their youth and ladies teams:

- an *Academy Team* for youth players aged 16-18 years with matches played on either Tues/Wed or Thurs pm and traffic mostly consisting of team mini buses and about eight vehicles for officials/spectators;
- an *Under 15 Girls Team* with matches played on Saturday mornings and traffic consisting of home and away teams;
- a *Ladies Team* with matches played on alternate Sunday afternoons and traffic consisting of home and away teams.

The overall use is estimated at three matches per fortnight, but there could be some instances with three matches in one week depending on fixtures. The Club proposes to provide a storage container for equipment (in the same position as the previous one) and their own part-time groundsman to look after the pitch. They would provide goals and rope barriers which would be lowered after each game and no further infrastructure would be permitted. Use of the pavilion for community events will still be possible as before.

An initial trial period has been arranged for two months until 30 November 2017, which will give all residents and users of the ground the opportunity for feedback to the Parish Council.

If you have any comments on the proposal in general or about a specific matter during the trial period, please address emails and letters to the Clerk or visit the Otterbourne Parish website to use the comment form. The Parish Council meeting on 21 November at 7.30 pm in the Bianchi Room of the Village Hall will be the next date at which the Council will consider this further and make a decision on whether to carry forward use by the Club.

Cllr Will Jones
Chairman

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