

Beacon Hill Recreation Ground – hire and use of by Beacon Hill Football Club

Project details.

Item	Details
Project / Service Title	Beacon Hill Recreation Ground – hire and use of by Beacon Hill Football Club
Lead Officer / Councillor	Pippa Sherriff
Key Committee / Council Date	Amenities & CIL committee 6 August 2026
Decision Required	Approve or reject
Reason for Proposal	Beacon Hill FC has approached Council to see if they can use the recreation ground each Saturday during the season as the club is expanding and there is not enough space at their current locations to accommodate all the games
Link to Council Priorities	Local environment & amenities, and youth
Who Benefits?	Residents / businesses / visitors / community groups
Proposed Start Date	12 September 2026
One-off or Ongoing?	Ongoing service

Key Considerations

Consideration	Detail / Impact
Estimated Cost (see page 8)	£2,601.50 (not including overseed/top dress or Portaloo provision)
Budget Available?	No
Funding Source	Beacon Hill FC
Staffing Impact	Officer time needed to set up, manage, administer & monitor
Ongoing Maintenance	Council's contractor Commercial Grounds Care will undertake the maintenance
Procurement Required?	Quote obtained as an extension of existing contract so not required
Legal / Governance Issues	Licence to BHFC

Insurance / Risk	Insurance cover required by BHFC, public liability, operational risks with traffic and parking
Health & Safety	Risk assessment required by BHFC
Equality / Accessibility	Not applicable
Environmental Impact	Traffic issues
Impact on Existing Services	Will this displace, duplicate or affect current council work? Not applicable
Communications Needed	Website, noticeboards, press, social media, resident letters
Partnership Working	BHFC and contractor

Additional Officer Comments

Please see pages 3 and 4 for background, consultation with Beacon Hill community, costs and proposed conditions of use.

Recommendation:

That Members:

- approve the use of Beacon Hill Recreation Ground for junior football on the terms set out under the heading proposed conditions of use;
- agree the session charge of £83 per Saturday;
- note that the surplus income will contribute to end-of-season pitch restoration works;
- agree a trial period with the ability to terminate the agreement following a review at the committee meeting in February;
- delegates authority to officers to progress terms.

Council / committee decision:

RESOLVED:

Purpose

To consider Beacon Hill Football Club's ("BHFC") request to use Beacon Hill Recreation Ground for a 9v9 junior football pitch on Saturday mornings during the 2026/27 season, and to agree the associated hire charge and maintenance arrangements. Beacon Hill Recreation Ground is within the Committee's remit, and the Committee is responsible for determining fees and deposits for its use.

The committee is also asked to note that a consistent approach should be taken when considering any future similar request on Council land, as Haslemere Football Club has approached officers regarding the use of High Lane Recreation Ground for similar.

Background

BHFC has requested use of the recreation ground from 5 September 2026 to approximately 8 May 2027, between 9.00am and 1.00pm on Saturdays. Officers note that Beacon Hill Fete will take place on 5 September 2026.

The club has confirmed that:

- pitch marking would be required every two weeks, and possibly weekly in the growing season;
- grass should be maintained at 30–35mm;
- end-of-season verti-draining and overseeding would be required;
- a portable toilet would be helpful.

Consultation

A 10-day consultation was undertaken. Residents immediately backing onto the recreation ground were hand-delivered a letter and the proposal was also posted on Beacon Hill Community Board on Facebook.

Feedback was mixed. Supporters highlighted:

- the benefits of junior sport;
- healthy activity for children;
- positive use of an existing recreation space.

Concerns raised included:

- parking pressure on Hill Road and surrounding streets;
- highway safety and visibility;
- noise and disturbance;
- litter and dog fouling;
- management of a portable toilet;
- wear and condition of the grass;
- impact on other users of the recreation ground.

Grounds maintenance and costs

Commercial Grounds Care Services Ltd has quoted:

- £1,979 + VAT to maintain one 9v9 pitch through the season;
- £495 + VAT for end-of-season verti-draining;
- top dressing and overseeding at additional cost depending on wear.

Estimated cost summary:

- additional bin emptying: £127.50;

- grounds maintenance: £2,474;
- total: £2,601.50;
- equivalent weekly cost: £76.51.

We recommend a hire charge of £83 per session, based on the current daily hire rate, which would generate £2,822 over 34 Saturdays. The surplus would be put towards end-of-season top dressing and overseeding.

Grayshott Parish Council provided us with a recent price pitch comparison pulled together by Hampshire Football Association (Borough/District and City Council charges, not parish council charges), which is appended to this document.

Proposed conditions of use

If Members are minded to support the request, the following conditions are proposed:

1. BHFC to undertake a post-match litter pick, with the cost of one additional weekly bin empty covered by the hire charge.
2. BHFC to take sole responsibility for the hire, placement, cleaning, security and removal of a portable toilet.
3. BHFC to coordinate stewards in high-visibility clothing to manage pre-match parking and post-match traffic movements, particularly on Hill Road and Grove Road.
4. HTC grounds maintenance contractor to look after the pitch, except for rabbit hole damage.
5. BHFC to take responsibility for filling rabbit holes on match days.

<u>Organisation</u>	Rate per match			
	<u>11 a side</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>9v9</u>	<u>Mini Soccer</u>
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	£70.80 (ICF)	£35.30 (ICF)	£23 (ICF)	£14.30 (ICF)
Bournemouth & Christchurch	£97.00	£49.00	£41.00	£24.50
East Hampshire District Council	£64.00	£35.00	£22.00	£17.00
Eastleigh Borough Council	£86 (ICR)	£45 (ICR)		
	£70.00	£40.00	£31.00	£35.00
Fareham Borough Council	£114.00	£44.00		£30.00
Gosport Borough Council	£105 (ICF)	£70 (ICR)		
	£53.00	£38.00		£29.00
Hart District Council	£61.00	£46.00	£29.00	£17.00
Havant Borough Council	£75 (ICF)	£44 (ICF)	£28 (ICF)	£23 (ICF)
	£60.00	£35.00	£23.00	£18.00
Isle of Wight	£72.00	£41.00		
New Forest District Council	£74.00	£49.00		£40.00
Portsmouth City Council	£84 (ICF)	£50 (ICF)		£19 (ICF)
	£44.00	£26.00		£13.00
Rushmoor Borough Council	£75.00	£38.00	£31.00	£23.00
Southampton City Council	£85.50	£64.00		£44.00
Test Valley Borough Council	£54.70	£27.35		£12.70
Winchester City Council	£83.50 (ICR)	£42 (ICR)		
	£43.00	£21.50		£19.50
Average cost x Authorities (including changing facilities)	£84.00	£48.00	£26.00	£19.00
Average cost x Authorities (without changing facilities)	£69.00	£40.00	£30.00	£25.00

ICR = Includes Changing Facilities