

## DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

**Date & Time:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 @2.30pm.

**Deputation Group:** Weston Hockey Club.

**Deputation Group attendees:** MaryAnne Ryan, Emmet Hutchinson, Ciara Hudson, Barbara Ryan,

**Elected Members:** Cllr Liona O'Toole (Chair), Cllr Caroline Brady, Cllr Helen Farrell, Cllr Madeleine Johansson, Cllr Joanna Tuffy,

**Council Officials:** Alison Somerville (SO Community Dept), Catherine White (SSO Community Dept), David Fenell (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Sharon Conroy (Senior Executive Officer, Environment, Water and Climate Change).

\*Cllr Liona O Toole presided\*

### Items Discussed

**Item 1 - Status of new pitch lease: Require update on progress of lease and wish to discuss options on expediting the process.**

Sharon Conroy (Senior Executive Officer, Environment, Water and Climate Change replied to the groups query:

#### Commitment given

The Manager acknowledged that the group raised the lease matter with the Council in 2023 and that she is aware of the impact this has had on the timing of grant applications. She has consulted with the South Dublin County Council (SDCC) Legal Department, who confirmed that the delay is not on their side. The responsibility currently lies with the club's solicitors, who have yet to respond to correspondence issued in May of last year.

The Manager has agreed to request that the SDCC Legal Department reissue the previous communication, outlining the necessary requirements to assist in progressing the matter.

Regarding the club proceeding independently of the trustees, the Manager undertook to seek further guidance from the SDCC Legal Department on the appropriate course of action and to report back to the group accordingly.

**Item 2 - To discuss the continuation of an agreement to maintain the pitch as per the old lease agreement until the new lease has been approved.**

David Fenell (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent replied to the groups query:

**Commitment given**

The Manager stated that he will endeavour to continue with the maintenance of the pitches for the time being and until the lease matter is resolved. He noted, however, that the pitch has significantly exceeded its intended lifespan—having been in place since 2007—and ongoing maintenance may soon become unsustainable.

He further advised that, once the lease is in place, the club should seek to draw down funding through the Sports Capital Grant in order to carry out the necessary upgrades. He acknowledged that such action cannot proceed in the absence of a formal lease and emphasised the importance of prioritising the resolution of this issue.

**Item 3 - We wish to discuss an issue with the drainage of our pitch. Mud is seeping up through the surface and washing onto the periphery of the pitch, causing a safety concern for our members. We are also concerned that when the new surface is installed, the issue will continue to occur.**

David Fenell (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent replied to the group's query:

**Commitment given**

The Manager advised that a site inspection would be necessary to determine the cause of the drainage issues and to identify any underlying problems. He noted that it would be the responsibility of the club to commission this assessment. However, he cautioned that it may be prudent to delay such work, as lifting the existing pitch surface could render it irreparable due to its age.

He further indicated that there should be scope within the Sports Capital Grant application to cover the cost of this work. In the meantime, the pitch will continue to receive regular drainage and sweeping as part of ongoing routine maintenance.

The meeting ended as there was no other business.