








**LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2024**

**REPORT FOR DECISION**

**ALEXANDRA PLAY PARK TENNIS COURTS**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
			✓		✓	

**Recommendation:**

Quotes be obtained for the repainting of Alexandra Play Park tennis courts.

**Background:**

The Alexandra Play Park project was completed in September 2021. At the time of the initial specification of the project, a number of options were discussed around ongoing maintenance which would largely be dependent on how well the site was being utilised by both residents and visitors. Encouragingly, since completion the site has seen much higher use than anticipated due, in part, to the quality and condition of the site.

In particular, the tennis courts have seen significantly higher use than in the years prior to handover. It is thought that at the current rate of use that the court surface will require redecoration in 2025 and as such it is recommended that quotes are sought to prepare for this project.

The surface condition underneath the paint work remains in good condition with repairs regularly being completed by the Leisure and Amenities Facilities Team. Ad hoc paintwork has also been completed by the in-house team but it is now reaching a point where the court surface requires a full re paint.

Enquiries will be made to see if colour changes to the court surface are a viable option and, if so, It may be that this option is recommended to Members to highlight the redecoration work to the courts.










Ben Brosgall

Leisure and Amenities Manager

**LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2024**

**REPORT FOR DECISION**

**PENLEE PARK - PRIDE IN PARKS 2024 / GREEN FLAG**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
						

**Recommendation:**

No entry be submitted for the Pride in Parks award for 2024 and, instead, the time that would be spent on this project be utilised to carry out the necessary work to prepare for an application for Green Flag status for Penlee Park.

**Background:**

The Leisure and Amenities Team have achieved a 5-star award in the Pride in Parks section of Britain in Bloom for the last 4 years for Penlee Park. This achievement is a great mark of the improvements made to Penlee Park over the last 7 years from what was once an underutilised space and the team are very proud of not just achieving this award but maintaining the 5-star status over this time. The improvements made have benefited the community who visit the park as seen by the increasingly high numbers of users. We have also seen an uptake in people wishing to utilise the space for events and activities.

Improvements have been made across a number of areas including, but not limited to:

- Redevelopment of entrance planting
- Redesigning and replanting of the Memorial Garden
- Creation of new formal borders
- Playpark improvement project
- Establishing “wild planting” areas
- Improved maintenance and upkeep of open and multi-use areas combined with a robust reactive maintenance programme when required.

- Replanting of the Sensory Garden
- Robust tree management programmes
- Seasonal border planting programmes

Feedback from the Pride in Parks awards has always been very positive about the steps taken by the team, but it is now suggested that Penzance Council's resources are applied to achieving a Green Flag award for Penlee Park and to explore whether a Green Heritage Site Accreditation would be a realistic aspiration.

Green Flag accreditation is the benchmark international accreditation for publicly accessible parks in the UK and around the world. The application process will involve all of the team and their input and feedback will be essential in order for us to put Penlee Park forward in a strong position. Due to this, it is recommended that Penlee Park is not entered into the Pride in Parks award for 2024 and that that time is utilised for preparation for a Green Flag application.








Ben Brosgall

Leisure and Amenities Manager

**LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2024**

**REPORT FOR DECISION**

**CRANKEN ALLOTMENT RENT REFUNDS**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
			✓		✓	

**Recommendation:**

The 2024 rent for up to twelve plots on the Cranken allotment site be refunded due to the emergence of several natural springs across the site over the last three seasons.

**Background:**

Over the last three seasons, a small number of allotment plots at the Cranken allotment sites have struggled with difficult growing conditions due to the emergence of natural springs on the site. The affected plots have all been in the same general area of the site and adjacent to the stream which runs next to the allotment.

Tenants have tried hard to work alongside the deteriorating conditions on the plot, however, after an exceptionally wet winter 2023 into Spring 2024 a number of plots have suffered more than in previous year.

Penzance Council's Operations Officer has identified in the region of 10 different plots, that have been adversely affected by the conditions and have faced a difficult start to the growing season.

Due to these exceptional conditions, it is recommended that for this year only, these plots are refunded their annual rent payment (between £20 and £30 per plot depending on size) and that the tenants are not held accountable for the usual stipulations within the approved allotment policy.

The expectation would still be that tenants continue to work their plots across the season and suppress any weeds so as not to cause a nuisance to any other tenants.

Although many of those affected will have experienced a significantly delayed start to their growing season, there would still be a requirement for tenants to make as much use of the plots as possible, however some flexibility around the amount of the plot used for growing crops would be required.

Given that Penzance Council still has a number of people on waiting lists for allotments it isn't possible for us to allow for little or no work to occur throughout 2024.








A resolution in line with the recommendation would potentially have an impact of £360 on the allotment income budget line which the Leisure and Amenities Team would look to offset across the allotment maintenance line of the Cranken allotment site.

Ben Brosgall  
Leisure and Amenities Manager

**LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2024**

**REPORT FOR DECISION**

**ALLOTMENT POLICY REVIEW**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
		✓	✓		✓	✓

**Recommendation:**

1. Revisions to the current allotment policy be progressed on the basis of the issues and elements identified in this report.
2. The revised policy document be presented to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration.

**Background:**

The Leisure and Amenities Committee have previously resolved to undertake a review of the allotment policy. It was acknowledged at the time that this could have a significant impact on allotment charges given the amount of time since the pricing was reviewed (late 1980's) and the fact that previous rental amounts had not been index linked in any way.

After starting the exercise, a number of conversations were held with other councils which uncovered a number of different areas requiring revision outside of the pricing structure.

**Pricing:**

Penzance Council's allotments vary greatly in size, but instead of operating a "price per rod" or price per square meter, only two pricing options are currently offered. A "full plot" or a "half plot". Depending on location there may be little difference between these two options and their relative size.

#### Water rates:

Currently Penzance Council absorbs the water rates on our allotments with a water supply. This method appears to be very outdated when compared to a number of other Council offerings. Most allotment providers have or are in the process of removing water supplies from their sites and are focussing on rainwater harvesting. Some Penzance Council sites have access to streams, but a handful have water supplies and taps installed on the sites. Decisions will need to be made on the future provision of water supplies on those sites which currently have them installed. Should Penzance Council decide to retain the water supplies on the sites, it is recommended that the water supply costs are distributed evenly amongst the tenants of that site for future billing purposes.

#### Medical / Disability

Adjustments need to be made to the current allotment policy to allow for more flexibility for tenants with disabilities. Work is ongoing with Penzance Council's legal advisors to ensure that a robust model is available to tenants that satisfies all legal obligations. Attempts will also be made to clarify the temporary medical exemption clauses and how this should be evidenced.

#### Green Waste Removal

A number of other Councils are adopting a model where green waste removal costs are passed back to allotment tenants to encourage composting and to avoid the rising costs of commercial green waste disposal.

#### Timeline

Whilst the draft revisions will be brought back to the Committee it is important to remember that a clear 12 month notification period will need to be in place before any price changes can be brought into action.

Ben Brosgall  
Leisure and Amenities Manager