

Town Council – 18th Sept 2017
Consultancy Fees – Football Pitches
Agenda Item 6 – minute 0048b

The above consultancy fees of £2,000 were agreed at External committee on 29th August. These fees relate to the costings and viability assessments of the Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) at Homewood School and 3 different options for the Appledore Rd site, the first 2 relating to a 25-year lease by Homewood School (these being the options favoured by TTC). Option C related to an arrangement between Homewood and Wates the developer and was dependent on the land between Appledore Rd and Woodchurch Road being passed for residential use.

Homewood School has now advised that they are reluctant to award a lease on the Appledore Rd site and their preferred option would be to wait for the Wates land to be developed. This position could change if the lease could be awarded subject to a break clause should the Wates development go ahead.

The repercussions of the withdrawal of the lease options are clear both for the footballers, and the Town Council (as the re-ordering of the Recreation ground is dependent on replacement football facilities elsewhere). The Town Council has already paid in excess of £3,000 for a ground condition survey on the Appledore Rd site.

Councillors should consider whether these consultancy fees now relate simply to the Homewood ATP as the possibility of a lease has been withdrawn, or whether we should honour our original agreement at the Sports Review even though circumstances have changed significantly.



Phil Burgess
Town Clerk