



REPORT FROM: Adele Waddington
PRESENTED TO: Trawden Forest Parish Councillors
DATE: February 2021

Trawden Forest Leisure Trust

Purpose

To investigate the interest of the Parish Council for the setting up of a Leisure Trust.

Background

With the acquisition of Trawden Lanehouse playground, the imminent transfer of Ball Grove Park, and the request to Pendle Borough Council for ownership of both the Recreation Ground and Bowling Club, our Borough Councillor, Sarah Cockburn-Price feels that it would be beneficial for a Leisure Trust to be set up as an umbrella for these leisure activities.

Recommendations

Cllr Cockburn-Price, Cllr Burton and the Clerk held a meeting to discuss the benefits of creating a Leisure Trust for all of the above.

There are several benefits of setting up a Leisure Trust which include:

- 20% of Business rates payable
- Can be VAT registered
- Can register for Gift Aid
- Can apply for a plethora of grants which aren't available to parish councils
- The Trust can hold leases, own land and buildings and employ people
- Limited liability
- Quick to register with the Charity Commission
- We'll pay no tax on income providing its related to our charitable objects (purpose)

In order for the Leisure Trust to be a success, we would need representation from each of the user groups and all interested parties of each of the facilities to sit on the Trustees Board to ensure success of the venture.

There would be no personal liability for any member of the Trust, but it would be recommended that there should be, potentially, paid members of staff to facilitate the demands of the business. It is recommended that a Charitable Incorporated Organisation be formed.

In order to gauge the interest in this venture, it would be recommended that a Public Consultation meeting should be held where all members of the area are invited to hear the idea, and to see whether there are enough people who would be willing to volunteer to see this project through, from inception to completion.

Financial Implications

Depending on the number of staff required – maybe up to £20,000 initially.

Ecological Implications

Any improvements that can be made on any of these areas (planting trees, hedgerows, wildlife areas), will be exceptionally beneficial to the Parish.