

BRIEFING NOTE

Project Name	Playing Pitch Development – Clee Fields project
Date of This Report	5 th October 2023
Date of Previous Report	N/A
Authors	Nick Browning
Project Sponsor	Damien Jaines-White

Background Playing Pitch Development:

In December 2021 Cabinet approved investment to develop the Clee Fields site to deliver the first centrally located improvement in playing pitch provision as outlined in the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). For further background information please see previous Cabinet report that included Scrutiny consultation: [11.-Playing-Pitch-Provision.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

Description of the Clee Fields project:

Clee Fields:

The Clee Fields project forms an important investment to deliver the first phase of the Council's PPS for the borough to address a significant shortfall in Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) provision. The development also importantly links to the re-provision of playing fields for housing development. The Clee Fields project includes the construction of:

- A new pavilion with changing rooms and small catering space
- 2x Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) – one suitable for football, and one dual for football / rugby
- Car park extension
- Grass pitch improvements

The site has multiple stakeholders that have been engaged throughout the project, with three different tenants across the combined sites of Clee Fields & King George V (KGV) adjoining to the south – these include Fusion Health & Wellbeing, Clee Fields Sports Hall, and Lincs Inspire Limited (LIL).

Clee Fields project headlines:

- Throughout 2022 ongoing engagement took place with the Football Foundation (FF) to develop the project design and prepare a grant funding application to support the development of Clee Fields.
- A grant funding application was submitted to the FF and in November 2022 the Council received confirmation that it has been successful in securing grant funding of £1.52m from the FF to support the delivery of the Clee Fields development.

- The FF grant funding comes with associated conditions for community programming, affordable pricing, local junior football club development to ensure long term community use of the facility plus the growth of women and girls football.
- Construction works commenced on site in January 2023, starting with the extension of the car park and associated preparatory works for the project. The car parking will be extended by 65 places, bringing parking to 199 spaces in total. It will also improve disabled parking provision at the site and install electric vehicle charging points.
- The changing room pavilion works started in March 2023 followed by construction of the 2x AGP's beginning in June 2023. The building and pitches include energy saving measures including solar panels, air source heat pumps and LED lighting across the scheme as part of the Council's ongoing pledge to reduce carbon output in its projects.
- The construction programme of works and completion of the project is scheduled for February 2024 (subject to weather) with opening anticipated for March / April 2024 (factoring in operator fit out).
- Recent images of progress on site below:

29th August changing rooms cladding & external shutters installed.



5th September ongoing works to AGP pitch area.



Next Steps:

- Over the next period the Council will confirm the operator arrangement for the site; under existing contractual arrangements, Lincs Inspire Limited (LIL) are being given first refusal (subject to a mutually beneficial agreement being in place) to operate the site in the first instance. This is subject to ongoing negotiation, therefore if a mutually beneficial agreement is not reached, then other options for operators will be explored.