

COYCHURCH PAVILION AND PLAYING FIELD

PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2022 RESULTS

The Responses:

Q1. The Number of returned questionnaires - 67

In favour of the proposal – 53

Against the proposals – 12

Don't Know - 2

Main points against – where is the regulated football pitch? Goal posts. Wildflowers will be untidy. Don't need more trees. Outdoor gym, picnic tables and parking will attract people from outside the village.

Q2. Have we missed anything?

Yes - 15 (mainly to do with football, dog access, additional trees)

No – 47

Don't Know - 4

To address some of the points on the response forms the community council has put together the following:

a) Regulation standard football pitch

Costs involved in bringing the existing pitch to the required standard (one off) - £35,000+

Cost of annual treatment (each year) - £3,000

Cost of weekly mowing and line painting (each season) - £10,000

The on-going regular costs for a regulation football pitch would require a rise in the precept in the region of over 25% and a grant would be needed for the one-off drainage works

The return from pitch rental (£75 per week during the playing season) would not go anywhere near covering the expense of maintaining the pitch. This is financially unsustainable and is part of the reason why Bridgend CBC are prepared to transfer the field and pavilion to the community council. Although the pitch is being used on a Saturday morning by a group from Brackla, it is our understanding that the pitch is not being rented as the pavilion is not in use.

b) Football kickabout area

There will be plenty of room in the central area for informal football by local children.

c) Outdoor gym, picnic tables and parking will attract people from outside the village.

We accept that there have been problems in Glenwood Close as a result of the popularity of the refurbished Play Park. To avoid these when the playing field is upgraded, we need to improve the parking at the playing field. It should be noted that the field does not belong to Coychurch as it was purchased many years ago by the county borough council and as such is a resource for a wider population.

d) Additional trees

We acknowledge the issues created by the horse chestnut trees to the east end of the playing field for the residents of Park View and Heol Cae Tyler and these will be considered if/when the Local Places for Nature development is planned.

e) Wildflowers are untidy

This is true at certain times of the year but nature isn't neat and if we are to provide varied habitats within the area then this is something to be embraced. It is a field rather than a sculptured formal garden.

f) Access by dog walkers

There are no plans to change the current arrangements. We will provide better dog waste bins and ask that owners be responsible and pick up, then bin their pet's poop.

g) Sewerage waste from the pavilion

It appears that the only way to ensure that the use of the pavilion does not result in sewerage waste flooding in Park View is to take the pavilion off the grid. The plan is to install a septic tank.

h) Anti-social behaviour / illegal parking

Historically, there have been problems with anti-social behaviour at the pavilion and illegal parking on the field. This was why Bridgend CBC installed a lockable gate. It is intended to install lockable gates at the new entrance and block off the old entrance if we can get permission to change the entrance position away from the railway bridge and blind bend. People who drive to the location will be charged to park inside the boundary.