

Sports Field Floodlights Upgrade

Background Paper Jan 24 DRAFT

The Parish Council owns the facilities at Napton Sports Field. The site is managed at arm's length by Napton Sports Association (NSA). The site includes 2 tennis courts and a recently refurbished all weather pitch. Both facilities are floodlit. The site opened in 2004. Since that time both the tennis courts and the astro turf have been resurfaced but the flood lights are still the original lanterns.

The expected life span of these lights is approx. 15 years or 2,500 hours, whichever is the sooner and this has now been significantly exceeded with a number of lights having exceeded 4,250 hours. Accordingly, the overall quality of light has significantly reduced and several have failed in the past 12 months, and it is anticipated that this degradation and failure will increase as time goes on.

The existing lights are not energy efficient and so from a financial and environmental point of view the Sports Association has been looking at moving to LEDs, the cost of which is likely to be in the order of £20,000 - £25,000 exclusive of VAT. LED flood lighting will reduce electricity consumption by at least 60% and maintenance costs, as they have expecting lifespans of 50,000 hours.

At a recent meeting, NPC agreed that it would not include the sports field floodlights in its current street lighting upgrade programme. However, NSA would like the Council to consider supporting the move to LEDs as a separate project:

1. SDC have recently launched a Community Climate Change Fund which may cover this type of project. Initial expressions of interest are required by 16th Feb. As was the case with the recent Football Foundation grant for the astro turf, NSA is asking NPC to be the lead applicant and to support an initial expression of interest (the does not commit the Parish Council or NSA to anything at this stage).
2. A tender process is required to obtain an accurate quote for the work. NSA is asking NPC to lead the process although the work and any subsequent project management/support would be undertaken by NSA volunteers, as per the annual licence agreement between NPC and NSA.
3. NSA does not expect NPC to agree to place an order for the works until an acceptable quote/terms have been offered and **sufficient external funding has been found**. If this was achieved it would allow NPC to reclaim the VAT, something which is entirely appropriate as NPC owns the site. Indeed, the annual Licence Agreement anticipates that NPC will, at its sole discretion, undertake major capital expenditure at the Sports Field.

As per the annual licence, apart from an annual contribution towards the cost of water, mowing and hedge cutting NPC makes no payment to the NSA and vice versa. However, the agreement does provide for the fact that NSA may, from time to time, donate funds to NPC in support of the recreational facilities it provides for the community. It is anticipated that a donation is likely to be forthcoming later this year.

This, in addition to any grants, would hopefully be sufficient to cover the cost of the project but there may be a shortfall which the Parish Council may feel able to help with.