

F19/21 BROADCLYST FOOTBALL PITCH

Background: Our Groundsman ordered 3 x800kg bags of BS3882 topsoil for our football pitch. We were given poor quality soil which contained slate, pebbles, chalk, clay, pottery, and plastic, and this has contaminated our pitch, leaving us with pre-season training starting in three weeks' time and a pitch that is unusable.

Risk analysis and legal responsibility:

Injuries may be caused by the conditions of the sports facilities. An uneven pitch or holes on the playing surface can become a serious trip hazard for players. Other potential hazards include the presence of foreign objects on the pitch, such as glass, stones or syringes. It is even possible for players and spectators to suffer chemical burns or other injuries if inappropriate chemicals are used on or left on the pitch. It is the responsibility of the owner of the ground to make sure that the area is safe for users.

Images:



Timeline:

- The attached letter went to Edenvale (who supplied the soil) on Wednesday;
- Edenvale has accepted responsibility and admit they supplied substandard/contaminated soil (they are blaming their supplier; however, this is irrelevant as our contractual agreement lies with Edenvale);
- They are deeply apologetic for and embarrassed about the contamination and, in fairness, seem committed to righting their wrong;
- They have carried out two visits this week: one on Wednesday to inspect/pick up the worst, and again yesterday with a gang with rakes and a trailer to lift and clear the stone;
- They have asked that we now inspect the pitch and feed back to them if we are happy or if we feel there is still stone to remove;
- They will continue to visit and carry out remedial works until we are happy that the contaminants have been cleared and are satisfied that the pitch is in a playable condition.
- Once the pitch is free from contaminants, recompense will be discussed;
- At the time of writing this report (Friday 19th July), The Broadclyst and Cranbrook FC Captains and Broadclyst PC Groundsman have been asked to carry out a pitch inspection over the weekend, so a report can go back to Edenvale on Monday.

Recommendation:

- i. That the Committee notes the issue and rectification work that is being done;
- ii. That an alternative supplier is sourced for future works;
- iii. That only top-quality top dressing (as opposed to topsoil) be applied to the pitch / goal mouths in future.

Reason:

- i. To protect the council from injurious claims;
- ii. To maintain the soil quality on the pitch;
- iii. To assist in budget-setting for the football pitch annual works allocation for next season.

This concludes my report to the Finance Committee.

Angie Hurren, Broadclyst Parish Clerk & RFO.

19/07/2019