

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member, Culture and Tourism
2.	Date:	18th Sept 2012
3.	Title:	Rotherham Titans Rugby Club use and temporary storage of two sleds on Herringthorpe Playing Fields
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

A request has been received from Rotherham Titans Rugby Club for a formal decision to be made in respect of the use and storage of two sleds (used to practice scrum technique) on Herringthorpe Playing Fields.

6. Recommendations

That the request be granted, subject to agreement of detailed storage arrangements and location in accordance with advice from the Council's Health and Safety team.

7. Proposals and Details

A request has been received from Rotherham Titans Rugby Club for a formal decision to be made in respect of the use and storage of sleds (used to practice scrum technique) on Herringthorpe Playing Fields.

Rotherham Titans Rugby Club use Herringthorpe Playing Fields for training purposes. In 2009 they asked permission from the Urban Green Spaces Manager to use and temporarily store sleds (used to practice scrum technique) on the playing field. Permission was given by the Urban Green Spaces Manager and the sleds were stored in a corner of the field before and after use.

Between 2009 and 2010 no issues were raised with the Green Spaces team in respect of the use or storage of the sleds on the playing fields and no incidents relating to health and safety were reported. In 2011 the Urban Green Spaces Manager received contact from a member of the public raising concerns about a perceived health and safety risk from the storage of the sleds on the playing field. This concern was supported by a ward member who had also been contacted by the same member of the public.

A risk assessment had been undertaken by the Urban Green Spaces Manager (Appendix A) but as a result of further communications with the ward member and the Strategic Director for Environment and Development Services, the Rugby Club's permission to store the sleds on the site was rescinded and they were asked to remove the sleds from the playing fields.

The Rugby Club brought the sleds back onto the playing fields in 2012 and the Urban Green Spaces Manager again asked the club to remove them. The Rugby Club have now made a request for a formal decision to be taken and have provided their own risk assessment in support of their request for use and storage of the sleds on Herringthorpe Playing Fields (Appendix B).

The Council's Health and Safety team have reviewed the equipment and risk assessments and confirm that equipment would pose little risk to health and safety if stored on Herringthorpe Playing Fields when not in use, subject to the following:-

- The equipment should be stored in the area indicated on the attached map (Appendix C)
- The A frames should be stored on the metal frame of the Scrum Sled and secured to the Sled using a metal chain and padlock

8. Finance

N/A

9. Risks and Uncertainties

See risk assessments in Appendices A and B.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

N/A

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendices A, B and C

The Council's Health and Safety Team has been consulted on this matter.

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