**Bowling Greens – Bradford District Update**

**September 2018**

**Response to below from Addingham Bowling Club:**

Addingham Bowling Club will still prefer Bradford Council to maintain our bowling green at a cost of £30.00 per member for the 2019 season at least, which is option 3 and to also drop an e-mail to Bradford Council informing them we are taking option 3 and that we have previously informed them and yourself.

From: Ian Wood, Principal Manager Parks and Green Spaces (ian.wood@bradford.gov.uk, 01274 432648).

The work around the district’s bowling greens has moved on at quite a pace over the last couple of years. From the outset of our initial meeting where we advised clubs that the council would be introducing a ‘pay per player’ charge to achieve a budget saving of £100k by 2020 we formed a ‘steering group which consisted of Park Managers and representatives from each bowling league.

Following much consultation, it was agreed that the initial charge would be £15 per player which then increased to £25 in year 2 with the charge now being £30. The steering group meets roughly every 6 weeks and has proven to be very beneficial in achieving targets and cascading information to clubs.

Last year (financial year 2017/18) the Council offered £50k from our ‘Implementation Fund’ with a view to assisting clubs that might want to become fully independent and self manage or part manage their facility. All clubs were offered 3 models which were:

1. Self-manage completely and cut and maintain the green themselves or through a private contractor (no fee) and these clubs would receive a ‘one off’ start up seed funding of £3000.
2. Part-self manage by cutting the green themselves or through a contractor with the Council still carrying out other seasonal treatments such as chemical applications etc (minimal fee of £10) and these clubs would receive a ‘one off’ start up seed funding of £2500.
3. Remain with the Council and continue to pay the agreed pay per player fee.

Around a third of the clubs expressed an interest in options 1 and 2 and following further discussion we now have had 5 clubs operating on option 1 this year (Brackenhill, Idle, Myrtle, Crossroads and Eccleshill), and 6 clubs also operating on option 2 (Wibsey, Clayton, Greengates, Asa Briggs, Denholme and Oxenhope).

There is still some of the seed funding money left for other clubs that might want to consider other options this next year but after that the funding will no longer be available.

Separate to this, Burley bowling green was taken over by the Parish Council as part of a Community Asset Transfer, and Menston are about to do the same.

The Parks team have written to all the Parish Councils asking if they would be willing to assist and support financially the bowls clubs within their Parish but there has not been much response. Only Menston and Addingham responded with both agreeing to support their respective clubs and Menston are actively engaged this season. It is understood that the Addingham Bowling Club did not follow anything up with their Parish Council.

So far this season all has gone positively for the 11 clubs that decided to ‘opt out’. Some reports from clubs who have engaged a private contractor suggest that the maintenance has not improved as expected compared to the service offered by the Council, with some feeling they weren’t getting value for money from their contractors.