

**From:** Ruth Bell (CEX)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:30 PM  
**To:** Nigel Palmer- Thorncliffe Villa  
**Cc:** Alan Hooper (CLLR)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Parks and Recreation council meeting - Questions

Dear Nigel,

Further to my email last week, I am writing to you in response to the questions and proposal you've submitted to Councillor Hooper with regards St Georges Park, Thorncliffe Football Hub.

I have discussed with colleagues within the Sport and Leisure team as well as the Parks and Countryside service and have responded to your points below. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to come back to me.

St Georges Park -Thorncliffe Football Hub is currently leased to the Sheffield Football Trust and operated by Leisure United as one of Sheffield's Football Hubs. The lease is due to be assigned to the National Football Trust and will continue to be operated by Leisure United. The original lease term was 50 years and was granted in 2016.

The fence line sets the boundary of the leased land, forms part of the lease plan and is the agreed site within the grant conditions for the facility. The fence was set in this position as required by Sport England and Yorkshire Cricket Board to ensure there was sufficient space to enable use of the cricket wicket. Any movement or addition to the fence line as shown would be in breach of playing field policy and would contravene Sheffield's Playing Pitch Strategy as it would prejudice the use of playing field for predominantly cricket but also football. Sport England would also object to the proposal as shown below for the same reasons. Whilst we understand the cricket wicket has not been used recently, we are obliged to protect future usage by our Playing Pitch Strategy as we are in deficit for cricket provision and therefore neither Sheffield City Council nor the lessee are able to agree to the proposal outlined below.

Whilst the fencing proposal is not possible, we are keen to develop community use of Sheffield's Football Hubs. The Sport and Leisure team will be working with the Football Foundation, Leisure United, Sheffield Football Advisory Group (who oversee the football hubs locally), the National Football Trust and stakeholders on plans for each of Sheffield's Football Hubs over the coming months and as part of that we will be consulting local stakeholders. We would welcome your views on community use of the facilities and would be happy to co-ordinate a meeting between the Sport and Leisure Team, Leisure United and the Club to discuss opportunities for working together and access to facilities.

With regards the pitch fees for Football Hubs, these are charged to cover the costs associated with managing the pitches. For the Parks and Countryside service who manage the grass pitches across the city this includes staffing, equipment, machinery, fuel and materials to carry out the ongoing repairs, maintenance and at times renovation. With the enhanced facilities including 3G pitches at Thorncliffe there will be additional maintenance requirements for these.

For consistency, the inflationary increases for the Football Hub fees are set in line with the Parks grass pitches. For the 2024/25 season the parks grass pitch fees have been agreed with a 5.5% inflationary increase.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Thanks

**Ruth Bell**

Head of Parks and Countryside

Parks and Countryside | Neighbourhoods Services | Sheffield City Council | Centre in the Park |  
Guildford Avenue | Sheffield | S2 2PL