

Costessey Town Council

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The Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane
Costessey, Norwich, NR8 5AH

Briefing for irrigation consultant appointment to Costessey Town Council

In mid-2019 there was an extensive infestation of the chafer and leather jacket grubs on part of the playing pitches of the Longwater Lane Recreation Grounds NR8 5AH, which resulted in some of the pitches being unplayable for the coming football season.

After trying to find a resolution to the infestation problem, several options were examined including nematode treatment, but all of which indicated the need for some form of irrigation system for the football pitches.

Costessey Sports Club and Costessey Town Council decided to ask the Football Association to carry out an inspection of the pitches and recommend an improvement programme – this report is attached and its recommendations form the basis of the need to develop, and install an irrigation system primarily aimed at ensuring the pitches either in total, or by priority, are kept irrigated in the hope that this will control any further grub infestation.

As at the time of the production of this brief in mid-July 2020, there has been no repeat of the infestation. Historically we know that such an infestation was last reported in 2010.

Following this FA report, the Town Council met with a number of irrigation contractors which resulted in quotations and/or estimates that offered a variety of irrigation systems and costs, and which proved difficult to compare as to efficacy, suitability, and fitness of purpose.

The only common factor was the need for a borehole to extract a maximum of 20,000 litres of water per day, being the maximum allowed before an expensive extraction licence was required.

It is thought the best option given these grounds are accessible to the public, and are not a secure area, is for underground piping and pop-up sprinklers, that ideally will allow variable programming of spray areas and timing.

The Consultant Brief

Purpose of brief:

1 To determine the best options for the control of the chafer and leather jacket grub infestation of the playing fields at Longwater Lane Recreation Ground, in line with the recommendations set down in the Football Association report on the Pitch Improvement Programme, a copy of which is attached to this brief.

2 To produce a tender brief and specification for an irrigation system, that will achieve the irrigation requirements set down in the FA report, or any such alternative solution that the consultant might propose will achieve the irrigation and chafer grub control requirements.

3 Provide a review of the resulting tenders received against the brief and specifications and to recommend which tender should be accepted, along with any revisions to that tender.

Specific outcomes

1 Review irrigation requirement for playing fields, referring to the FA report Pitch Improvement Programme on the condition of the Costessey Town Longwater Lane playing fields and the FA recommendations.

1a, Ideally any irrigation system designed should cover all the pitches, but when considering the water volume restrictions, it may only be viable to irrigate only part of the playing field. The consultant is to advise preferred options to obtain maximum control of the chafer grubs on as much of the playing fields as possible.

2 Draw up a specification of a suitable irrigation system to control the chafer grub infestation on the playing fields, taking into account the limitations on the water supply available, with or without a borehole.

3 Produce an outline design to meet the needs of the level of irrigation needed for control, given the limitations of water volume available, to include requesting tenders to provide details on:

- Installation timescales, Impact on existing turf, time period that the playing area will be out of commission.
- Financial estimate of ongoing annual maintenance costs and recommended service schedule.
- Warranty details and expected service life.
- Precautions taken in the design to allow for usage of heavy transport on fete days or recommendations on weight limits and depth of pipework installation to mitigate any impact damage to pipework and sprinklers.

4 Draw up a briefing document against which selected suppliers/contractors will be asked to tender.

5 Review and comment on tenders received and recommend a contractor offering best value.

6 Be available for consultation on any issues during the construction phase and the initial period of use.

Steps 1 to 5 to be provided within the consultancy cost quoted, and step 6 to be based on a time used cost as set down in the quotation provided by the consultant in the response to this brief.

For queries and to arrange a site visit contact - Nigel Bailey, Deputy Clerk Tel: 01603 742958
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Please submit a response by Friday 7th August 2020 10am