

Request from Wroughton Wranglers Cricket Club to set up & pay for a green waste contract with Swindon Borough Council for 3 bins to safely dispose of the grass clippings from the cricket pitch, currently £62.99 per bin pa.

Request received from Wroughton Wranglers Cricket Club (WWCC):

'Unlike the rest of the field, leaving the grass to mulch down on the cricket square isn't an option. It has to be collected or the facility would be unusable.

That's great news that your team would be able to empty the bins for now, assuming SBC doesn't do so – thank you.

In advance of your next meeting, we'd therefore make the following points/requests, relating to the Weir Field maintenance in general as well as the specific issue of grass collection:

- We remain very grateful that the parish council continues to support us in ensuring the village retains a cricket facility. Of course, our club members are the main beneficiaries of that support, but it's great that the parish council values such a tradition and village asset that other residents can, and do, enjoy watching.*
- The bottom line is that the grass on the cricket square must be collected (and therefore disposed of). SBC green bins appear to be the only viable solution, however we believe three bins would be sufficient. The frustration is that the SBC contracts are annual, but the grass is only cut and collected for around five months a year. However, we would request that the parish council puts in place and pays for a contract with SBC for three green bins.*
- Should that be approved, we would ask that the parish council's grounds team dispose of the grass during the interim period before the contract is renewed.*
- You will recall that a saving of c.£600 was made last autumn by not applying more loam soil as part of the usual maintenance contract. This doesn't appear to have impacted the pitch quality, so we would propose that a similar saving is made by altering the contract such that loam application is done only every other year (until the North Wroughton development happens, obviously).*
- Again, we'd like to put on record our thanks for the cooperation of the parish council and contractor in so far ensuring that the outfield cutting is working well.*
- Further to our recent correspondence and request, we've so far played two midweek games at the Weir Field, which has worked really well. We'll confirm the dates we've done so as part of our usual end of season summary. To help mitigate possible health and safety concerns, we are bowling only from the pavilion end (lessening the risk of balls going into the Weirside Avenue houses).'*

Information from SBC

- WWCC has been using 4 green waste bins which have been collected by SBC since c2017 until a couple of weeks ago. However, neither WPC nor WWCC has paid for a contract for these bins for at least the last 6 years. SBC has recently realised that no-one is paying for this service and is no longer collecting the bins. SBC advised that the green bins were probably delivered and a commercial contract set up when SBC used to collect from commercial premises. SBC then stopped the commercial contracts, and now their policy is only to collect from domestic properties. However, they do continue to collect from some non-domestic properties such as bowls clubs and parish councils. They assume that when the commercial contracts were stopped, they inadvertently continued to collect WWCC's green waste FOC.
- SBC have confirmed that they only offer an annual green waste contract; they do not offer any contracts which are for the summer months only. If the bins are not used during the winter by the WWCC, then the Grounds Team could potentially use the bins.

- The contract price will be reduced for the current year (2024-25) by £10 per bin wef 1st July for this year only, as an acknowledgement that the contracts for green waste are already part way through the year. Subsequent years will be full price.
- As WWCC already has 4 green waste bins, SBC advised they should be able to add the bins onto the round as soon as the contract has been set up, so there should be little or no delay in the bins starting to be emptied.

Information from WPC's Grounds Team

- WWCC's green waste bins are already stored in the garage at the Weir Field.
- The Grounds Team would be willing to empty the 3 green bins until the contract is set up and the green waste is being collected, on condition that WWCC does not overfill the bins as the Grounds Team has to empty them manually.

Recommendations:

1. **To agree to set up a green waste contract for 3 green bins with SBC on behalf of Wroughton Wranglers Cricket Club, at a current annual cost of £62.88 per bin, totalling £188.64 pa less the reduction of £10 per bin totalling £158.64 for 2024-25, to be taken from *Code 210, Centre 4450 Cricket Winter*. This cost was unforeseen and therefore not budgeted; if the budget is exceeded this financial year, any overspend will be taken out of General Reserves.**
2. **To recommend to F&GP that the budget for future years is increased to include the cost of the green waste contract for 3 bins, until such time as the cricket pitch is relocated to the Hills site.**
3. **To agree that the Grounds Team will dispose of any grass clippings until the green waste bins are collected, on the condition that the bins are not overfilled.**
4. **To recommend to F&GP that the parish council pays for a loam application every other year, at a current approximate cost of £600pa.**
5. **To note that WWCC is now playing their midweek games on the Weir Field, using the wicket prepared and played on the previous weekend, and this is going well so far.**