
From:
Sent: 19 January 2015 12:24
To: Margaret Mernagh
Subject: 2ND ENQUIRY - 1370/15 - Cllr Porter - Request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course
Attachments: 13-01-2015 Nigel Porter.docx; Golf Western 2014 2015.pdf; Golf HHGC 2014 2015.pdf

Dear Cllr Porter,

Thank you for your e-mail requesting information relating to a full breakdown of the £241,138 Grounds Maintenance costs. In addition you also enquired if there is a management company involved in the running/maintenance of the course and on how does this figure of £241,138 compare with other golf courses. Please find below our response to your questions.

Please find attached to this email two PDFs which detail:

Western Park Golf Course Grounds Maintenance annual full breakdown -£242,469.82
Humberstone Heights Course Grounds Maintenance annual full breakdown -£235,310.41

I can confirm that the Grounds Maintenance Contracts are operated internally through Parks Services and the Golf Professional is employed through a retainer contract who subsequently then employs his own staff.

Unfortunately we do not have details about the figure of £241,138 comparing to other golf courses but will make a number of enquiries and if we receive any appropriate level of detail we will forward this on to you in due course.

I do hope that this information is sufficient and would be happy to discuss any elements in more detail

Your sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 13 January 2015 14:30

To: Liz Blyth

Cc: Nigel; Cllr Wayne Naylor

Subject: Re: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank-you for the information. Can I please have a full breakdown of the £241,138 Grounds Maintenance costs. How does this figure of £241,138 compare with other golf courses?

Is there a management company involved in the running/maintenance of the course?

Regards

Cllr Nigel Porter

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

Western Golf Course

Contract 5

E0010 WESTERN GOLF COURSE

APC	WATERBODY - C	Western Golf course	1618 SQ.METRES	£372.03
BAA	ANNUAL BEDDING - A	Western Golf course	199 SQ.METRES	£5,822.95
BSA	AMENITY SHRUB BEDS - A	Western Golf course	337 SQ.METRES	£383.53
COA	OPEN BUILDINGS - A	Western Golf course	72 SQ.METRES	£1,829.46
CSA	SHOWERS - A	Western Golf course	10 SQ.METRES	£447.64
CTA	TOILETS - A	Western Golf course	95 SQ.METRES	£9,777.56
FBA	LITTER BINS - A	Western Golf course	22 BINS	£3,166.13
GOB	ORNAMENTAL GRASS - B	Western Golf course	278 SQ.METRES	£334.55
GOC	ORNAMENTAL GRASS - C	Western Golf course	2791 SQ.METRES	£672.25
GPB	GRASS PATHS - A	Western Golf course	2586 SQ.METRES	£1,010.43
HHA	HEDGEROW - A SIDE & TOP	Western Golf course	703 SQ.METRES	£337.55
HHB	HEDGEROW - A SIDES & TOP	Western Golf course	902 SQ.METRES	£433.11
HOA	ORNAMENTAL HEDGE - A	Western Golf course	22 SQ.METRES	£21.93
RPA	PATHS,HARD SURFACES - A	Western Golf course	970 SQ.METRES	£546.88
RPB	PATHS,HARD SURFACES - B	Western Golf course	8557 SQ.METRES	£9,648.79
SGA	GOLF GREENS - A	Western Golf course	7997 SQ.METRES	£62,506.99
SGB	GREEN APRON - A	Western Golf course	5496 SQ.METRES	£14,568.29
SGD	BUNKERS - A	Western Golf course	3875 SQ.METRES	£12,355.09
SGE	TEES - A	Western Golf course	5050 SQ.METRES	£38,484.05
SGF	ARTIFICIAL TEES - A	Western Golf course	483 SQ.METRES	£4,878.37
SGG	FAIRWAYS - A	Western Golf course	155890 SQ.METRES	£18,889.93
SGH	SEMI-ROUGH - A	Western Golf course	295878 SQ.METRES	£33,455.31
SGJ	DITCHES AND BANKS - A	Western Golf course	4712 SQ.METRES	£22,527.01
				£242,469.82

Summary for Contract 5 (91 detail records)

£242,469.82

Grand Total

£242,469.82

Humberstone Heights Golf Course

Contract 2

B0390 HUMBERSTONE HEIGHTS GOLF COURSE

APB	WATERBODY - B	Humberstone Heights Golf	1655 SQ.METRES	£1,733.10
BAA	ANNUAL BEDDING - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	99 SQ.METRES	£2,896.84
BOA	ORNAMENTAL SHRUB BEDS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	735 SQ.METRES	£2,923.51
CPA	PAVILIONS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	40 SQ.METRES	£966.73
CSA	SHOWERS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	12 SQ.METRES	£537.16
CTA	TOILETS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	20 SQ.METRES	£2,058.43
FBA	LITTER BINS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	11 BINS	£1,583.07
GAG	AMENITY GRASS (G)	Humberstone Heights Golf	1030 SQ.METRES	£172.97
GAH	AMENITY GRASS (H)	Humberstone Heights Golf	79501 SQ.METRES	£4,485.78
GOC	ORNAMENTAL GRASS - C	Humberstone Heights Golf	24206 SQ.METRES	£5,830.30
GPB	GRASS PATHS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	254 SQ.METRES	£99.25
HHB	HEDGEROW - A SIDES & TOP	Humberstone Heights Golf	1000 SQ.METRES	£480.16
RPA	PATHS,HARD SURFACES - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	5743 SQ.METRES	£3,237.88
RPB	PATHS,HARD SURFACES - B	Humberstone Heights Golf	1885 SQ.METRES	£2,125.51
SGA	GOLF GREENS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	6255 SQ.METRES	£48,890.98
SGB	GREEN APRON - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	4218 SQ.METRES	£11,180.69
SGD	BUNKERS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	6458 SQ.METRES	£20,590.75
SGE	TEES - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	6283 SQ.METRES	£47,880.25
SGG	FAIRWAYS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	172704 SQ.METRES	£20,927.36
SGH	SEMI-ROUGH - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	169873 SQ.METRES	£19,207.76
SGJ	DITCHES AND BANKS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	1682 SQ.METRES	£8,041.26
SPA	P&P GREENS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	2569 SQ.METRES	£25,833.83
SPH	P&P FAIRWAYS - A	Humberstone Heights Golf	36751 SQ.METRES	£3,626.83

£235,310.41

Summary for Contract 2 (106 detail records)

£235,310.41

Grand Total

£235,310.41

From: Stewart Doughty
Sent: 06 July 2015 20:59
To:
Cc:
Subject: Closure of Western Park Golf Course
Attachments: S188 notice Western Park Golf July 2015.pdf; Western Golf Course consultation.pdf

Dear Union Colleague,

Closure of Western Park Golf Course

I am writing to give you formal notice under Section 188(4) of the Trade Union & Labour Relations Act 1992 that I shortly intend to commence consultation with staff at WPGC on the proposed closure of the site, which may result in a redundancy situation.

A briefing paper on the proposal, together with the Section 188 notice, are attached for discussion with union representatives at a meeting on Friday 17 July 2015 at 2.00pm at Evington House, Evington Park.

I would be grateful if you, or a colleague, would be available to attend the meeting prior to the initial consultation meeting with staff, which I intend to hold during the week commencing the 20 July 2015.

Should you have any queries I can be contacted as shown above.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart

Stewart Doughty
Head of Parks & Open Spaces

www.leicester.gov.uk

Please ask for: Stewart Doughty
Telephone: 0116 233 3020
Email: stewart.doughty@leicester.gov.uk
Date: 06 July 2015



PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
To Be Opened By Addressee Only

Dear Colleague

Redundancy Consultation – Western Park Golf Course

I am writing to give you formal notice under Section 188(4) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ("TULR(C)A") on the basis that a decision has been taken to close Western Park Golf Course, which may result in a redundancy situation.

The information is as follows:

- 1) The decision to maintain and invest in Humberstone Heights Golf Course and close Western Park Golf Course was taken by the City Mayor on the 11 December 2014. This took into account the results of two periods of consultation during 2014. The decision was called in for Scrutiny and considered at Overview and Select Committee and Full Council in January 2015.
- 2) This decision will impact on the 4 Golf Course Green Keepers who directly maintain this course.
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)
 - iv)
- 3) As a measure to mitigate redundancies at Western Park, it is proposed that there will be an opportunity for employees to take voluntary redundancy (VR) across both Western Park Golf Course and Humberstone Heights Golf Course. If any staff request, and are approved VR from the Humberstone Heights Golf Course, there will be competitive selection process to select staff to transfer, as appropriate
- 4) Employees will be provided with written notice following selection and such notice will not expire until prior to or within the period of 30 days after commencement of consultation.
- 5) Redundancy payments will be made in compliance with statutory provisions but will be based on an actual week's pay.

We will do as much as is practically possible to avoid compulsory redundancies through methods such as limiting recruitment, natural wastage and non-filling of subsequent vacancies, reducing or eliminating the use of casual, temporary and agency employees; consider voluntary early retirement/redundancy where this will create opportunities for redeployment; redeployment of employees, with appropriate retraining, where required; and voluntary reduction of working hours. In addition, if eligible, employees who are served with notice of redundancy will be placed on the Council's Talent Match scheme to help identify suitable alternative employment.

I hope that this information will provide the basis for consultation between representatives from the Council and the trade unions.

Please note that this letter is being issued to representatives of Unison, GMB, Unite, UCU and UCATT. In the event of any queries regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact Stewart Doughty, Head of Parks & Open Spaces who is supported by HR Advisor.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Doughty
Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Confidential Briefing Note

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

Closure of the Western Park Golf Course

July 2015

1. Background & Rationale for the Proposed Reduction

The decision to maintain and invest in Humberstone Heights Golf Course and close Western Park Golf Course was taken by the City Mayor on 11 December 2014. This took into account the results of two periods of consultation during 2014 and the assessment and mitigation of equality impacts. The decision was called in for Scrutiny and considered at Overview and Select Committee and Full Council in January 2015.

Therefore, Stewart Doughty, Head of Parks & Open Spaces has made a decision to undertake collective consultation on the staffing implications relating to the decision to close Western Park Golf Course.

2. Proposals for the Reduction

Following the decision to close the Western Park Golf Course on the 31 October 2015 by the City Mayor, the 4 Green Keepers based at Western Park Golf Course and the 3 based at Humberstone Heights Golf Course will be offered voluntary redundancy,. If any staff request and are approved VR from Humberstone Heights, the staff based at Western Park Golf Course will undergo an assessment process to replace the staff who take VR. Those who are unsuccessful in gaining any of these positions (if any become available) will be supported through the Authority-wide redeployment process which looks to retain experienced employees within the Council by matching displaced staff with suitable vacant roles for which they may have transferable skills under the Talent Match process..

3. Formal Consultation

The corporate statutory notification of proposed redundancies (Section 188) in relation to the Western Park Golf Course is attached.

The overall period of consultation is for a minimum of 30 days.

4. Posts and Post Holders Affected

Name	Title	Payroll Number

5. Proposed method of selecting the employees to be dismissed

As the Western Park Golf Course will be closing as a public facility, the role of Green Keeper will not be required. Therefore no redundancy selection process is necessary (subject to the take-up of VR at Humberstone Heights GC) as it is proposed that all posts at this site are to be deleted.

Competitive interviews will be conducted for bump-on places where there are more staff than posts.

6. Measures that will be taken to avoid compulsory redundancy

It is envisaged that requests for voluntary redundancy (or reduction in hours/flexible retirement) will be offered across both of the Council Golf Courses in order to provide 'bump-on' opportunities for those staff affected by the closure of Western Park. .

Anyone remaining displaced will be supported through the Talent Match registration process to seek alternative employment within the Council.

7. Redundancy

7.1 Compulsory redundancy

Following a consultation process, staff based at Western Park Golf Course who do not wish to transfer to any vacant post/s at Humberstone Heights or are unsuccessful in securing other alternative employment with the Authority may be identified as redundant. Any subsequent dismissals would be on grounds of redundancy subject to the required notice period.

Any dismissals will be effected by the issue of notice of termination giving the relevant statutory period or contractual notice period, whichever is greater. This would not be effective before 31 October 2015 at the earliest.

7.2 Method for calculating redundancy payments

The calculation of redundancy payments will be made in compliance with statutory provisions and in accordance with the Redundancy Payments (Modification) Order in force at the time. In this respect payment will ignore the statutory minimum weekly payment and will be calculated on actual pay at the date the redundancy takes place.

7. Proposed Timescales

Briefing on proposals to unions	W/c 13 th July 2015
Collective/individual consultation commences	W/c 20 th July 2015
Provisional collective/individual consultation meeting dates	W/c 27 th July 2015
Last day to register interest in VR.	31 st July 2015
Management decision on VR/collective consultation ends	14 th August 2015 2015
Selection process completed	21 st August 2015
Appropriate notice of redundancy notice issued for displacement.	26 th August 2015
Redeployment period/ and dismissals (Talent Match)	20 th November 2015
Appeals against dismissal (if any)	9 th September 2015
Staff requesting VR to be released	20 th November 2015
Staff transferring to HHGG	20 th November 2015

Lead Officers Name: Stewart Doughty
Position: Head of Parks & Open Spaces
Service: Parks & Open Spaces

Supporting Officers Name:
Position: Parks & Open Spaces
Service: Parks & Open Spaces

From: TheMayor
Sent: 30 July 2015 09:32
To:
Subject: FW: Business Plan for Western Park Golf Course

From: TheMayor
Sent: 18 March 2015 13:37
To:
Subject: RE: Business Plan for Western Park Golf Course

Dear

Thank you for your continued interest and enthusiasm regarding Western Park Golf Course. As I am sure you will appreciate the decision I have taken to close Western Park Golf Course has been a very difficult one and was only been reached in light of the large cuts in government funding imposed across all aspects of Local Government. There is nothing that I have heard during the consultation process or through the Scrutiny exploration that changed my mind and convinced me that the decision, to focus investment on Humberstone Heights Golf Course, was the wrong one. Notwithstanding this position I acknowledge your email and your intention.

Yours sincerely

Peter Soulsby
City Mayor

From:
Sent: 08 March 2015 17:00
To: TheMayor
Subject: Business Plan for Western Park Golf Course

Dear Sir,

Further to the Council meeting on the 22nd January and the overwhelming support shown by Councillors,

I am contacting you to confirm that representatives of Western Park Golf Course are in the process of producing a business plan for your consideration.

The club has enlisted the help of a number of experienced people within the industry and we have a structure for a workable plan. We are now putting flesh on the bones and will soon be setting a date for its completion.

We are confident that we can reduce the financial burden on the Council and help the course develop for the future. The course is important as a place for people to take up the sport of golf and can provide many benefits to the community.

We are grateful for this opportunity and we hope to convince you that with a change in set up and a solid financial plan we can improve the fortunes of the course and allow it to remain open for future generations to enjoy.

Please accept this email as confirmation that I will be the point of contact at the club regarding this matter and that I have the full backing of the clubs committee.

Yours Sincerely

From:
Sent: 30 July 2015 09:28
To:
Subject: FW: Name your price.

From: TheMayor
Sent: 05 February 2015 10:45
To:
Subject: RE: Name your price.

Dear

Thank you for your continued interest and enthusiasm regarding Western Park Golf course.

The decision to close Western Park Golf Course has been a very difficult one and has only been reached in light of the large cuts in government funding imposed across all aspects of Local Government.

Having only very recently made the decision to close the course, I am now embarking on a considerable and lengthy exercise to establish the next steps and timetable associated with the closure.

I will ensure that one of my officers keeps you informed of the progress of this next phase of activity and if any opportunities for the procurement of the course as a going concern or indeed for land purchase arise.

Yours sincerely
Peter Soulsby
City Mayor

From:
Sent: 01 February 2015 14:35
To: TheMayor;
Subject: Name your price.

Dear Lord Mayor of Leicester,

I wrote to you last year from Leicester, regarding Western Golf Course, and its threatened closure. I understand a timetable for this has now been set.

I have two follow up questions;

1) Could I or a consortium of golf enthusiasts, buy the land, bearing in mind that it is only worth 3,000,000 pounds tops, as a golf course in the run down

condition its customers now find it in?

2) Can you project into the future how much it would cost to buy, one month before it closes. taking into account the rising price of land, in green and

pleasant areas within twenty minutes of our proud city's centre? And provide that information to both me and

In other words what will it cost then?

If you respond to this mail in a timely fashion, it will give me the opportunity to raise the figure required.

If I don't hear from you within seven calendar days, I will begin to raise a figure based on what I call a 'Fermi solution.'

In other words, based on what I imagine you want to use the land for, and have wanted to use it for for many years.

If any aspect of this mail is confusing, please do not hesitate to reply for clarification.

Yours sincerely,

and I have common goals and interests. To grow the game of golf, locally, regionally, and globally. Closing a fine course, on the basis

that it is not accruing enough revenue per year, when those in the 'know' understand that it has been allowed, more than somewhat to go to 'rack and ruin'.

Closing this Fred Hawtree (front nine) designed course, and unique to the area practice facilities, will be detrimental to the game of golf universally.

For it to happen, the year before golf will be an Olympic sport for the first time since 1904, is without doubt, crass bad timing and blinkered thinking in

terms of the provision of sporting facilities in the heart of England.

I stand four square behind a six time 'Major' winner and one of the finest players our country has ever produced. Let's see how we can grow golf, not shrink it. Provide and maintain sporting services with both commitment and vision. 'Sport for All?' Not golf, at Western Park, after next October.

From: Margaret Mernagh
Sent: 28 July 2015 12:21
To:
Subject: FW: proposal for catering hours

From:
Sent: 12 June 2015 17:05
To: Margaret Mernagh
Subject: proposal for catering hours

Margaret

As you are aware the club has given notice on the catering lease to end on the 28th July, due to staff leaving. I met with and who told me that the council will not put anybody into run it and that if the club could get some cover the council would consider this. With this in mind I held discussions with our current licensee and catering manager and she has come up with the following as a proposal.

Monday closed all day
Tuesday 8.00am to 1.00 am if required
Wednesday closed unless a match is on.
Thursday 8.00 to 1.00 or later if a match on.
Friday 8.00 to 2.00
Saturday 7.00 to 2.00 later if busy or to cover evening functions
Sunday 7.00 to 2.00

I hope this proposal is ok with you as it will at least allow the public and members that use the course some refreshment. Due to holidays we will have a problem providing cover for periods 25th July to 5th August and 25th September to 28th September also around the 7th September for a couple of days

If you have issues with this I am happy to meet with you to discuss.

From:
Sent: 30 July 2015 09:26
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course

From: TheMayor
Sent: 04 June 2015 09:29
To:
Subject: RE: Western Park Golf Course

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 27th May 2015 regarding the current situation of our golf provision in the City.

Sports Services including leisure centres, sports development and sport on parks cost the council a considerable amount of funding each year in public subsidy. However, large cuts in government funding meant we could no longer continue to run the service as we have done.

As a result, we carried out public consultation proposing we closed one of the golf courses and further invest in the other one enabling the Council to continue providing a quality municipal golf course while also making the necessary budget savings.

The decision has been taken to close Western Park Golf Course later in the year.

I will ask the Interim Head of Service Margaret Mernagh to make contact with you regarding your idea of possible ventures with our golf course.

Yours sincerely

Peter Soulsby
City Mayor

From:
Sent: 27 May 2015 12:14
To: TheMayor
Subject: Western Park Golf Course

Good Afternoon Peter,

Firstly i would like to introduce myself, my name is . I'm the son of the secretary of

The reason for my email is with regards to the two golf courses that Leicester Council manage, Humberstone Heights and Western Park. I have been developing a sport in the East Midlands, which was the fastest growing sport in the UK in 2014. I have grown the sport in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and am now looking to progress in to Leicester, and as such are looking to partner with, or take over the

management of a golf course.

I was hoping to gather some information regarding these two courses as i have read on various sites that you may be looking to close them down for re-development. Would it be possible for you to just give me an overview of what the current situation is and if you would be willing to consider possible ventures with one of the courses.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours In Sport

From: TheMayor
Sent: 30 July 2015 09:35
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course

-----Original Message-----

From: TheMayor
Sent: 21 July 2015 10:01
To:
Subject: Western Park Golf Course

Dear

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. The decision to stop a public service is never easy. I would like to assure you that I have taken careful consideration before deciding to close Western Park Golf Course. As I'm sure you will understand, the council is facing unprecedented cuts from central Government, which means the council is having to review a wide range of previously funded activities. As an authority we did look at other options before making our final decision, including business development. However, after careful scrutiny a number of business proposals were not deemed feasible or viable options for the Council at this stage.

Therefore, it was felt that the best course of action for Leicester City Council was to close Western Park Golf Course and invest into our remaining municipal site at Humberstone Heights. I understand that this decision will have an impact on local residents and I am sorry that you feel you will be adversely affected by this.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write to me, it is very important to me that I hear local people's views on our services.

Yours sincerely

Peter Soulsby
City Mayor

-----Original Message-----

From: webteam@leicester.gov.uk [mailto:webteam@leicester.gov.uk]
Sent: 11 July 2015 10:20
To: TheMayor
Subject: Contact general - City Mayor submitted

An instance of the Contact general - City Mayor form has been submitted. 10:19:58 11 Jul 2015

The status of this form is: New

Form Data:

My enquiry is about:: Culture, heritage and sport

Message: Good Morning,

I am writing to you with regards Western Park Golf Course which is due to be closed down in the near future. Although the golf course has run at a loss (although not as much as many other facilities in Leicester), rather than closing down the facility, why not turn it into a thriving business opportunity. It is in an excellent catchment area, especially with the new housing developments in Glenfield. If investment was made to put in a driving range, maybe

even a hi-tech driving range, gym and upgrade the food facilities, increase the cost of membership by 10% and take this as a direct donation to the running of the course (in addition to the green fees). Just because a business is struggling, doesn't mean it doesn't have potential. Creating a sports complex/leisure centre in this area would receive superb support from the many people who live outside the city centre and feel increasingly disenchanted with Leicester Council and the so called 'vanity projects' in the inner city. Surely now is a good time to give back to those outside the city centre.

Title:

Forename:

Surname:

Address:

:

:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone Number (mobile or landline)

From: Stewart Doughty
Sent: 19 January 2015 15:15
To: Liz Blyth
Subject: Golf Course maintenance
Attachments: Golf Course yardage.xlsx

Importance: High

Liz,

I have checked the archive and we don't have the detailed breakdown of the comparison work which we had undertaken as part of the Local Environmental Services Best Value Review, I do have the BV report which states;

Independent consultants, KMC Consultancy and Indecon Ltd, were commissioned to compare current costs and work specifications with national private sector organisations. The information obtained provided conclusive evidence that the grounds maintenance service is currently providing the best value for money and remain competitive in the workplace. The headline findings are that existing grounds maintenance totals are £711,000 less than the current average of 15 key private/public sector tenderers.

Although this work was undertaken in November 2002 the costs have remained the same with only the City Council annual inflation increase. The £700k is the equivalent of 17%

It is difficult to draw comparisons with other golf courses without the detailed breakdown in terms of size of key features, greens, tees, fairways rough etc (with KMC did) which can vary considerably, even the overall size of the golf course does not take into account the level of maintenance and the specification etc. However as a rough guide I have looked at the yardage of the Leicestershire golf courses as a rough guide, see attached, this shows where Western Park sits in relation to other sites. (the yardage is the distance from the first tee to the last hole on a straight line, ie,, the distance walked).

is our internal 'expert' he is a NCH qualified Green keeper and advises on the maintenance of both courses as is a member of BIGGA (British & International Golf Green Keepers Association).

Not sure if this helps or not

Regards, Stewart

Stewart Doughty
Head of Parks & Open Spaces

www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

Golf Course Name	Yardage
Park Hill	7222
Stapleford Park	6944
Greetham Valley	6736
Langton Park	6724
Kilworth Springs	6718
Ullesthorpe Court	6662
Glen Gorse	6648
Beedles Lake Golf Club	6641
Longcliffe	6625
Luffenham Heath	6563
Lingdale	6545
Rothley Park	6501
Forest Hill	6490
Western Park	6486
Cosby	6474
Rutland County	6450
Kirby Muxloe	6428
Hinckley	6427
Kibworth	6363
Leicestershire	6329
Willesley Park	6290
Melton Mowbray	6279
Scraptoft	6257
Birstall	6239
Lutterworth	6226
Humberstone Heights	6216
Whetstone	6182
Market Harborough	6014
North Luffenham	5981
Charnwood Forest	5971
Six Hills	5933
RAF Cottesmore	5767
Enderby	5712
Breedon Priory	5577
Blaby	2516 9 hole

Please ask for: Margaret Mernagh
Direct line: 0116 454 3512
Email: margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk

Website: www.leicester.gov.uk
Our ref:
Date: 11 June 2015



Dear .

Further to the extensive discussions and public consultation regarding Leicester City Council's golf provision, I am writing to re-confirm the decision to close Western Park Golf Course and to confirm that it is our intention that the course close at the end of the season on 31st October 2015. You have formal occupation agreements which Property Services will serve 6 months formal notice to terminate and we would welcome a discussion to work with you on close down arrangements. I would like to reiterate that this has been an extremely hard decision for the Council to have to take, but under the circumstances a very necessary one, so that we can focus on improving the facilities at the Council's remaining city golf course.

In recognition of the difficult position this has placed on your membership, we would like to offer all Western Park Golf Club members an additional concession as follows, should they choose to take up membership of Humberstone Heights Golf Club:

- 15 months membership for the price of 12 months
- no joining fee until March 2016

I am mindful that the occupation agreements six months' notice period extends beyond the end of the golf season and closure date and that as a result you may wish to terminate sooner. I would be very happy to discuss this further along with any other questions or queries you may have.

We will be in touch shortly to discuss the details and to confirm the above membership offer in full.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Mernagh
Interim Head of Sport
Leicester City Council

From:
Sent: 02 February 2015 17:52
To: Margaret Mernagh;
Subject: RE: Fwd: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.
Attachments: RE: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Hi I

I said to I was looking into it and will respond today.
So at 3:23pm today, I had sent it directly to Mags & Liz as advised

See Attached item.

Happy to support.
Best regards

From:
Sent: 02 February 2015 17:14
To: Margaret Mernagh;
Cc:
Subject: Re: Fwd: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

I spoke to earlier who confirmed you would be sending the figs to him? Given he finishes at 3 wonderd if you have ? If not can you cc me in plse thanks

From: Margaret Mernagh
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 05:04 PM GMT Standard Time
To:
Subject: Fwd: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Have we done this please

Mags Mernagh

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 2 February 2015 15:23:20 GMT
To: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>, Margaret Mernagh
<Margaret.Mernagh@leicester.gov.uk>
Cc: Colin Sharpe <Colin.Sharpe@leicester.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Hi Liz / Mags,

RE: Cllr Porter Query on Western Golf Course
-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 29 January 2015 09:27

Can we have full details re. the 2013/14 figures for £25,012 in fees, un-metered sewage at £1,930 but a zero figure for the previous year and the £140,346 income figure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

I have reviewed the Transactions and I suggest a following response

Western Golf Course - 2013/14 financial figures;

- £25,012 in Fees relates to Golf Professional's Retainer Fees
- £1,930 for un-metered sewage arises as a charge for Surface Water Drainage (SWD) following a site inspection by Severn Trent. No charge in 2012/13 as prior to the 2013/14 visit no charge was made for Surface Water Drainage. Previously it was assumed to be draining to local ditched / dykes. However, Severn Trent's inspection found that this was not the case.
- £140,346 income figure related to three type of income (cash, credit card and debit card) collection at the golf course

I trust this will suffice.

Kind regards

Accountant of City Development and Neighbourhoods
Leicester City Council

City Hall | 115 Charles Street | Leicester | LE1 1FZ

www.leicester.gov.uk |

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriiii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth

Sent: 29 January 2015 10:03

To: Margaret Mernagh;

Subject: FW: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Hi Mags

Can you pick this up please and prepare a response for me to review, is showing an out of office message so may need to wait until Monday.

Thanks

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 29 January 2015 09:27

To: Liz Blyth

Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel; Margaret Mernagh

Subject: Re: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank you for your email.

Can we have full details re. the 2013/14 figures for £25,012 in fees, un-metered sewage at £1,930 but a zero figure for the previous year and the £140,346 income figure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2015 15:08:32

To: 'nigel.porter'

Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor<Wayne.Naylor@leicester.gov.uk>;

Nigel<nigel.porter@leicester.gov.uk>; Margaret Mernagh<Margaret.Mernagh@leicester.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

Please find attached the detailed breakdown as requested. As indicated below, this was provided by me to last week and previously, in June 2014, to Western Park Golf Club.

With best regards

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 26 January 2015 08:07

To: Liz Blyth

Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel

Subject: Re: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank you for your email. What I've received so far in terms of a detailed breakdown of the figures is only for the grounds maintenance costs. Could you please send me the detailed breakdown of all the other income and costs/expenditure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>

Date: Thu, 22 Jan 2015 12:29:54

To: nigel.porter

Cc:

Cllr Wayne Naylor <Wayne.Naylor@leicester.gov.uk>;

Nigel <nigel.porter

Subject: RE: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

I can confirm I have sent the information he requested earlier this week. This included the financial information sent to you on grounds maintenance charges and the financial information on the accounts previously sent (in June 2014) to : Western Park Golf Club. Perhaps could confirm to you that he has received my email.

With best regards

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 22 January 2015 11:58

To: Liz Blyth

Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel

Subject: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

says that he has still not received all the information he has requested. Is there any reason for this? Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

From:
Sent: 02 February 2015 15:23
To: Liz Blyth; Margaret Mernagh
Cc: Colin Sharpe
Subject: RE: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Hi Liz / Mags,

RE: Cllr Porter Query on Western Golf Course

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 29 January 2015 09:27

Can we have full details re. the 2013/14 figures for £25,012 in fees, un-metered sewage at £1,930 but a zero figure for the previous year and the £140,346 income figure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

I have reviewed the Transactions and I suggest a following response

Western Golf Course - 2013/14 financial figures;

- £25,012 in Fees relates to Golf Professional's Retainer Fees
- £1,930 for un-metered sewage arises as a charge for Surface Water Drainage (SWD) following a site inspection by Severn Trent. No charge in 2012/13 as prior to the 2013/14 visit no charge was made for Surface Water Drainage. Previously it was assumed to be draining to local ditched / dykes. However, Severn Trent's inspection found that this was not the case.
- £140,346 income figure related to three type of income (cash, credit card and debit card) collection at the golf course

I trust this will suffice.

Kind regards

Accountant of City Development and Neighbourhoods
Leicester City Council

City Hall | 115 Charles Street | Leicester | LE1 1FZ

www.leicester.gov.uk |

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriiii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth

Sent: 29 January 2015 10:03

To: Margaret Mernagh;
Subject: FW: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Hi Mags
Can you pick this up please and prepare a response for me to review, is showing an out of office message so may need to wait until Monday.
Thanks
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter
Sent: 29 January 2015 09:27
To: Liz Blyth
Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel; Margaret Mernagh
Subject: Re: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,
Thank you for your email.
Can we have full details re. the 2013/14 figures for £25,012 in fees, un-metered sewage at £1,930 but a zero figure for the previous year and the £140,346 income figure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>
Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2015 15:08:32
To: 'nigel.porter'
Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor<Wayne.Naylor@leicester.gov.uk>; Nigel<nigel.porter>; Margaret Mernagh<Margaret.Mernagh@leicester.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

Please find attached the detailed breakdown as requested. As indicated below, this was provided by me to ... last week and previously, in June 2014, to ... of Western Park Golf Club.

With best regards
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter
Sent: 26 January 2015 08:07
To: Liz Blyth
Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel
Subject: Re: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank you for your email. What I've received so far in terms of a detailed breakdown of the figures is only for the grounds maintenance costs. Could you please send me the detailed breakdown of all the other income and costs/expenditure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>
Date: Thu, 22 Jan 2015 12:29:54
To: nigel.porter
Cc: ; Cllr Wayne Naylor<Wayne.Naylor@leicester.gov.uk>; Nigel<nigel.porter
Subject: RE: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

I can confirm I have sent the information he requested earlier this week. This included the financial information sent to you on grounds maintenance charges and the financial information on the accounts previously sent (in June 2014) to at Western Park Golf Club. Perhaps I could confirm to you that he has received my email.

With best regards
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter
Sent: 22 January 2015 11:58
To: Liz Blyth
Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel
Subject: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

says that he has still not received all the information he has requested. Is there any reason for this? Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

From:
Sent: 12 March 2015 14:41
To:
Subject: Re: Western Park Green Fees

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Mar 2015, at 13:31, wrote:

Hello

They are

- Sport Services Area Manager
- Manager of Western Park

Admin and Business Support Officer
Sport Services
Leicester City Council

From:
Sent: 12 March 2015 13:30
To: .
Subject: Re: Western Park Green Fees

Thank you for your email,

Who are the additional people?

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Mar 2015, at 13:21, wrote:

Hello

Mags has invited some additional people into the telephone conversation.

Please at Friday 1:15 can you call this number and input the pin

Admin and Business Support Officer
Sport Services
Leicester City Council

From:
Sent: 10 March 2015 10:31
To:
Subject: RE: Western Park Green Fees

Hello

Just got a reply from Mags and she has agreed for you to call her on Friday at 1.15

I will send you an appointment

Her number

Admin and Business Support Officer
Sport Services
Leicester City Council

From:
Sent: 09 March 2015 09:43
To:
Subject: RE: Western Park Green Fees

Hello

Mag's availability on Thursday is 12:00 – 1:00 or after 3:00

Friday she is free anytime at the moment.

Admin and Business Support Officer
Sport Services
Leicester City Council

From: Margaret Mernagh
Sent: 09 March 2015 00:18
To:
Subject: Re: Western Park Green Fees

Thank you for mail. Can we have a call next week please regarding new reduced pricing for pay and play at western.

Please arrange a call if possible with either Thursday or Friday
Thanks

Mags Mernagh

On 23 Feb 2015, at 13:22,

wrote:

Mags,

Sorry for the delay,

Further to the UCC meeting and recent emails,

Please find below the view of the club regarding the green fees.

Due to the current financial climate private courses have reduced their rates in order to attract more clientele. This has had a detrimental effect on the number casual "pay and play" golfers that visit Western Park Golf Course. This in turn has reduced the amount of people that the club can convert into permanent paying members.

There are a number of local courses where members of the public can go to play golf at reduced rates. We are constantly hearing of people turning up to play at the course and leaving when they find the cost is £21.

We believe the cost should be reduced as follows:

£10 weekdays

£15 at the weekend (or £17 but reduced after a certain time in the afternoon)

There should also be a reduced rate for 9 holes in the late afternoon/evening

The above rates would increase the numbers of users of the course and therefore increase the income to the pro shop and clubhouse. This would help to compensate for the loss of income due to the decision to close the course which has had a direct effect on the numbers visiting the course.

Please confirm if the above is possible and what timescale we are talking about to implement the changes.

Can you also confirm the current prices including concessions as I can't find these published anywhere

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Regards

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:13
To: |
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course

From: Liz Blyth
Sent: 21 January 2015 09:29
To: Stewart Doughty
Subject: RE: Western Park Golf Course

Hi Stewart
Please review – okay with you? Could we give the cost of the four staff?
Liz

Dear

Please find attached the accounts summary for 2013/14 for Western Park Golf Course.

Also attached is a detailed breakdown of the grounds maintenance costs. The management costs are not separately accounted for as the golf course is managed as part of a wider cost centre for grounds maintenance for a geographical area of the City which includes all parks and green spaces (Housing, Highways as well as Parks etc). The cost of £242k in the detailed breakdown is described as the 'Bill Of Quantities' by feature, which is built up from a set of rates which allows for all on costs including management, administration etc.

The Council's grounds maintenance service is carried out to a detailed schedule of works and employees 4 full time green keepers for Western Park Golf Course managed by an area manager. The area manager is a National Certificate Horticulture (NCH) qualified green keeper and a member of BIGGA, the British and International Golf Green Keepers' Association, which is the body leading standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the green keeping profession. The Council works to ensure a high quality and professional grounds maintenance service, at the Golf Courses and in all its grounds maintenance services. As well as a good quality service, the Council is committed to fair pay and conditions for staff, acting as a fair employer with provision for equality and due care and regard for staff.

At Overview Select Committee, you indicated that you had comparator costs from other Golf Courses. It may be helpful for me to point out, that it is difficult to draw accurate comparisons without a comprehensive breakdown in terms of size of key features, greens, tees, fairways etc as these vary considerably from course to course. Even the overall size of a golf course does not take into account the level and specification of maintenance and does not indicate it is a suitable comparator. Therefore caution should be applied when drawing a comparison of 'like for like' between costs when there are many variable factors in relation to type of provision, quality of service and terms and conditions for staff. It might also be useful for you to know that with regards to the overall cost of grounds maintenance, as part of the Best Value review into grounds maintenance some years ago, independent consultants were commissioned to compare current costs and work specifications with national private sector organisations. The information obtained provided conclusive evidence that the grounds maintenance service at the time was providing the best value for money and was competitive in the market place.

I hope this information is helpful.
Best regards
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services
Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

From:
Sent: 19 January 2015 17:17
To: Liz Blyth
Subject: Western Park Golf Course

Liz,

Further to the Overview Select Committee meeting,

We are trying to put forward an acceptable business plan for the future of Western Park Golf Course.

Can you please send me a breakdown of the accounts/finances for the course. We have been advised that the ground maintenance costs are 240K. Can you please provide a further breakdown of this including management costs. As this forms around 80% of the cost to run the course, an understanding of these costs will be critical to any plan we propose.

Any assistance you can provide will be gratefully received.

Please accept this email as confirmation, that I will be the point of contact for Western Park for all correspondence regarding this matter and I have the full backing of the clubs committee.

Regards

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 10:27
To:

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Mernagh
Sent: 08 July 2015 20:07
To: Cllr Sue Waddington
Subject: Western Park

Dear Cllr Waddington

Following on from our conversation yesterday re planned closure of Western Park, I have had a meeting with the club and have spoken to _____ separately today.

The golf club will be closing on 31st October and both council officers and club committee members are working together to make this process as smooth as possible.

The club have had formal notice of lease termination and while they would, of course, like the Council to change the decision, they are being realistic and cooperating fully.

Please feel free to call me anytime if you need any further information Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Head of Sport

Many thanks

Executive Assistant to:
Andrew L Smith
Director of Planning, Transportation and Economic Development
Cllr Sue Waddington, Assistant City Mayor
Leicester City Council
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

 Tel (External):

 E-mail:

 Web: www.leicester.gov.uk

Please ask for: Margaret Mernagh
Direct line: 0116 454 3512
Email: margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk

Website: www.leicester.gov.uk
Our ref:
Date: 11 June 2015



Dear

Further to the extensive discussions and public consultation regarding Leicester City Council's golf provision, I am writing to re-confirm the decision to close Western Park Golf Course and to confirm that it is our intention that the course close at the end of the season on 31st October 2015. You have formal occupation agreements which Property Services will serve 6 months formal notice to terminate and we would welcome a discussion to work with you on close down arrangements. I would like to reiterate that this has been an extremely hard decision for the Council to have to take, but under the circumstances a very necessary one, so that we can focus on improving the facilities at the Council's remaining city golf course.

In recognition of the difficult position this has placed on your membership, we would like to offer all Western Park Golf Club members an additional concession as follows, should they choose to take up membership of Humberstone Heights Golf Club:

- 15 months membership for the price of 12 months
- no joining fee until March 2016

I am mindful that the occupation agreements six months' notice period extends beyond the end of the golf season and closure date and that as a result you may wish to terminate sooner. I would be very happy to discuss this further along with any other questions or queries you may have.

We will be in touch shortly to discuss the details and to confirm the above membership offer in full.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Mernagh
Interim Head of Sport
Leicester City Council

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:16
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:39
To: Cllr Susan Barton
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Barton ,

Following on from our telephone conversation today, I have attached the letter I sent to
Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

As I said on the phone, please contact me on or email me at margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk if
you have any further questions.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:17
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:49
To: Cllr Malcolm Unsworth
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Unsworth,

I have not been able to speak with you but I have left a message today with regards to the closure of Western Park Golf Course. Following on from that message, please find attached the letter I sent to
Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

If you have any questions or need to contact me please call me on _____ or email me at
margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:19
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:53
To: Cllr Gurinder Singh Sandhu
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Singh Sandhu,

I have been unable to speak with you personally but wanted to let you know that I have now sent the attached letter to Western Park Golf Course with regards to the proposed closure.

The reason why I wanted to speak with you was to brief you about the position and the proposed timetable for closure of Western Park Golf Course.

Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

Western

If you have any questions or need to contact me please call me on _____ or email me at margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:18
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:36
To: Cllr Jean Khote
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Khote,

Following on from our telephone conversation today, I have attached the letter I sent to Cllr Khote, Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

As I said on the phone please contact me on 0116 253 2222 or email me at margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk If you have any further questions.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:18
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:37
To: Cllr Abdul Osman
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Osman,

Following on from our telephone conversation today, I have attached the letter I sent to
Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

As I said on the phone, please contact me on _____ or email me at margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk If
you have any further questions.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:18
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:41
To: Cllr Luis Fonseca
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Fonseca,

I have not been able to speak with you but I have left a message today with regards to the closure of Western Park Golf Course. Following on from that message, please find attached the letter I sent to
Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

If you have any questions or need to contact me please call me on or email me at
margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:18
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:43
To: Cllr Diane Cank
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Cank,

I have not been able to speak with you but I have left a message today with regards to the closure of Western Park Golf Course. Following on from that message, please find attached the letter I sent to
Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

If you have any questions or need to contact me please call me on _____ or email me at
margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:18
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:44
To: Cllr Baljit Singh
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Singh,

I have not been able to speak with you but I have left a message today with regards to the closure of Western Park Golf Course. Following on from that message, please find attached the letter I sent to
^ Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

If you have any questions or need to contact me please call me on _____ or email me at
margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From:
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:17
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From:
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:46
To: Cllr Rashmikant Joshi
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Joshi,

I have not been able to speak with you but I have left a message today with regards to the closure of Western Park Golf Course. Following on from that message, please find attached the letter I sent to Martin Cobb - Vice-Captain, Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

If you have any questions or need to contact me please call me on [redacted] or email me at margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

From: Margaret Mernagh
Sent: 31 July 2015 14:17
To:
Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

From: Margaret Mernagh
Sent: 18 June 2015 13:48
To: Cllr George Cole
Subject: Western Park Golf Course - sent on behalf Margaret Mernagh

Dear Cllr Cole,

I have not been able to speak with you but I have left a message today with regards to the closure of Western Park Golf Course. Following on from that message, please find attached the letter I sent to you regarding the closure of Western Park Golf Course, on the 11th June 2015.

If you have any questions or need to contact me please call me on 01533 434343 or email me at margaret.mernagh@leicester.gov.uk.

Thank you

Mags Mernagh
Interim Head of Sports
Sport Services

Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course

From: Liz Blyth
Sent: 03 July 2015 08:49
To: Cllr Sue Waddington
Cc: Cllr Piara Singh Clair
Subject: RE: Western Park Golf Course

Dear Cllr Waddington
Thanks for the email and we will follow it up with
Best regards
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services
Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

From: Cllr Sue Waddington
Sent: 02 July 2015 21:10
To: Liz Blyth
Cc: Cllr Piara Singh Clair
Subject: Fwd: Western Park Golf Course

Dear Liz
I had a quick talk with Peter today to see how this email from _____ should be taken forward. He suggested that I should send it on to you. Perhaps you could arrange for an officer to look at their proposals please.
Thank you
Sue

Sent from my iPhone
CLLR Sue Waddington

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 1 July 2015 18:22:37 GMT+01:00
To: "sue.waddington@leicester.gov.uk" <sue.waddington@leicester.gov.uk>
Subject: Western Park Golf Course

Councillor Waddington,

Thank you for your support of Western Park Golf Course at the Council meeting back in January.

I was very nervous in the run up to the meeting as I had no idea how members of the Council would respond to the motion proposed by Councillor Barton. However, I was overwhelmed by the response as one by one Councillors stood up and spoke positively about the possibility of saving the club, about the benefits the course brings to the community and about giving the members of the club a real chance to come up with a workable business plan.

I understand your comments regarding the fact that the Council cannot continue to subsidise funded activities unless they are viable. The figures that have been presented show the losses that have been made over the last few years regarding both golf courses. There are some mitigating circumstances such the two very wet summers experienced (which will always effect municipal courses first due reduced numbers of pay and play golfers) and also a couple of internal issues in recent years regarding ex members of staff that have led to members leaving.

The club was striving to increase membership numbers and had a large number of new members lined up prior to the announcement of the first consultation. Unfortunately, the announcement also had a negative effect.

Since the meeting in January we have received a detailed breakdown of the finances surrounding the course and we have been working on a business plan based on the figures provided. We have received a great deal of help from experienced people within the industry and in the next few weeks we hope to present a business plan that will allow the club to go forward.

The key objectives of the plan are as follows:

- Remove the financial burden from the Council
- Show a sound financial plan for the next 3 years
- Complete restructure of the golf club and the way it is managed
- Set up a junior academy with the help of an England level coach. This will involve working closely with local schools, football teams and DMU
- Retain the principals of a Council owned municipal course and make golf accessible to everybody
- Maintain the course as an asset of the people of Leicester for future generations to enjoy

- Contact existing community groups and clubs to let them know we are here
- Increase membership by advertising and introductory offers
- Utilise the club house in the evenings by holding junior, ladies and senior nights

A lot has changed since the meeting in January and we have now received official notice that course will close on the 31st October. However, there was no deadline set for alternative business plans to be considered and we still feel the club can be saved. A lot of people have offered their services because they believe as I do that the course is viable as a self-sustained business going forward and that the benefits the course brings to the community are worth fighting to keep.

It was mentioned by several at the meeting that the Council should assist the club in producing a business plan and ensuring it is financially sound. We would certainly welcome another set of eyes looking at our proposals prior to presenting it to the Mayor or even some assistance on the best way to present the plan.

Any help you can provide would be gratefully received. I would welcome a meeting to discuss this further.

Regards

Subject: Call-in - City Council Golf Courses
Attachments: Response letter Golf Courses.docx

From:
Sent: 18 December 2014 17:17
To: Cllr Susan Barton; Cllr George Cole; Cllr Malcolm Unsworth; Cllr Paul Westley; Cllr Paul Newcombe
Cc: Kamal Adatia; ; Frank Jordan; Liz Blyth
Subject: Call-in - City Council Golf Courses

Dear Councillors,

Please see formal acknowledgement of your call-in attached.

Regards

Senior Democratic Support Officer
Leicester City Council

www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open. Book your tickets now at kriii.com

Subject: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES
Attachments: Response letter Golf Courses 1.docx

From:
Sent: 18 December 2014 17:22
To: [nigel.porter](#) Cllr Wayne Naylor; 'rossigrant Cllr Anne Glover; Cllr Barbara Potter
Cc: Kamal Adatia; ; Frank Jordan; Liz Blyth
Subject: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES

Dear Councillors,

Please see attached, a formal acknowledgement to your call-in.

Regards

Senior Democratic Support Officer
Leicester City Council

www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open. Book your tickets now at kriii.com

Subject: FW: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info

SOL-ITEM-ID: # 9135: 5905732

From:

Sent: 05 January 2015 16:36

To: nigel.porter

Cc: Kamal Adatia; ; Frank Jordan; Liz Blyth; Margaret Mernagh

Subject: RE: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info

Dear Councillor Porter,

Thank you for your email.

I've spoken with the Monitoring Officer in relation to your email.

The rules regarding call-in do not and are not designed to account for every procedural eventuality. A purposeful and reasonable approach must therefore be taken when interpreting them. The core purpose of the call-in procedure is to expose Executive Decisions to meaningful debate and challenge where an objection has been raised.

It also needs to be borne in mind that Executive Decisions are, for legal purposes, held in suspension until dealt with. This is despite the fact that the decisions are legally made.

Bearing these two points in mind, it is reasonable to infer that Rule 12 was designed to deal with call-ins within a reasonable timescale. This means without undue delay and in normal circumstances this would mean the next scheduled meeting of Full Council (unless the meeting was too close to the call-in date). Rule 12 of the Executive Procedure Rules clearly presupposes this by referring to a 'meeting of Full Council' and to the scrutiny debate happening 'prior to this'. The clear inference is that the Scrutiny debate operates within a timescale working backwards from the Council meeting.

The Rules regarding convening special meetings are not confined to circumstances where the relevant Scrutiny Commission does not have a programmed meeting. Every Commission and Committee has a full calendar of scheduled meetings agreed at the commencement of the municipal year.

Reasonableness is met by dealing with it 5 weeks after called-in (January Council) as opposed to 10 weeks after called in (February Council). Reasonableness is also achieved by debating it at OSC (at which every scrutiny commission is represented). The Rules do not define which is "the" relevant scrutiny commission for any particular matter. Whilst it may be cause for legitimate complaint if an adult social care matter was dealt with by the HCLS Commission, no such issue arises where OSC, with its over-arching remit, considers an call-in. There was once a time where there were only 3 Scrutiny Committees and a system of Task Groups, OSMB (as it was known then) was the only relevant Scrutiny Committee for Call-in purposes. There may be a time at some point in the future where there is no OSC and under this situation, the Heritage or equivalent Scrutiny Committee would be the only relevant Committee. The rules are written to allow for some flexibility with regard to the shape of the Scrutiny system. Currently our system can have more than one relevant scrutiny committee.

It's also pertinent to point out that two of the most recent call-ins were considered at OSC before Council. Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector – Outcome of Consultation and Future Options was considered on 12.6.14 and Connecting Leicester Street Scheme, St Nicholas Circle was considered on 31.7.14. There was no obvious detriment to them following this path.

Therefore, following the advice and guidance of the monitoring officer it is intended to place both of the recently received golf course call-ins on the OSC agenda for the 15th January. This matter unfortunately does need to be determined and finalised in order to send the OSC agenda for printing at the close of play on 6th January.

Kind Regards

Senior Democratic Support Officer
Leicester City Council

www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open. Book your tickets now at kriiii.com

From: nigel.porter
Sent: 30 December 2014 12:52
To:
Cc: Nigel
Subject: Re: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info

Dear

Thank you for your email.

It's clear from the rules that after the called-in decision has been referred to THE relevant scrutiny committee the Call-In moves 'to a meeting of the Full Council' there is nothing (rules state ' call-in under this Procedure Rule must be referred to a meeting of the Full Council, but shall prior.....') about it having to be the next meeting of the Full Council.

Very importantly the rules state; 'but shall prior to this be referred to 'THE' relevant Scrutiny Committee. THE relevant Scrutiny Committee is the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission and a meeting is programmed for the 29 of January 2015. As THE relevant scrutiny committee is programmed therefore no Special Scrutiny Committee has been summoned in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.' All good.

Note the use of the word 'THE' in the rules and not 'A'. The rules are clear it's 'THE' relevant committee. OSC is NOT THE relevant Scrutiny Committee.

'THE RELEVANT committee is the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission. The rules clearly cater for the incidence when THE RELEVANT committee is NOT programmed by permitting a special meeting of THE RELEVANT committee to be convened under Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4, this would require the Chair (following consultation with the Vice-Chair) to summon the meeting, or any 3 Members of Commission to write to the Monitoring Officer to request a meeting.

Therefore the Call-In is required to move to 'THE RELEVANT' committee meeting on the 29 of January 2015 after the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission the Call-In goes to Full Council.

Thank you
Regards

Cllr Nigel Porter

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

From:

Date: Tue, 23 Dec 2014 12:35:00 +0000

To: 'nigel.porter'

Cc:
services<members.services@leicester.gov.uk>; cllrenq-resources<cllrenq-resources@leicester.gov.uk>;
Kamal Adataia<Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>; ; Frank
Jordan<Frank.Jordan@leicester.gov.uk>; Liz Blyth<Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>; Margaret
Mernagh<Margaret.Mernagh@leicester.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info

Dear Councillor Porter,

With regard to your query about call-in procedure, 12F of the City Mayor and Executive procedure rules reads as follows:

A decision called-in under this Procedure Rule must be referred to a meeting of the Full Council, but shall prior to this be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) if programmed, or Special Scrutiny Committee(s) if summoned in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.

As indicated in the procedure, consideration by scrutiny needs to take place before consideration at full Council. Scrutiny must therefore consider this call-in before 22nd January. The next programmed meeting of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission is on 29th January.

As OSC has an overarching brief and deals with all scrutiny matters, it is a relevant scrutiny committee which is programmed in prior to the next meeting of full Council, therefore it meets the requirements of the call-in procedure.

As per Rule 3 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Constitution, variation of the date of the next scheduled meeting of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission can be undertaken by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of that Commission. As far as we are aware no such proposal has been put.

A special meeting of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission to consider the call-in could be convened under Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4, this would require the Chair (following consultation with the Vice-Chair) to summon the meeting, or any 3 Members of Commission to write to the Monitoring Officer to request a meeting. Neither of which has happened.

With regard to your request for the other information /documents, this has been forwarded to the City Development and Neighbourhoods department as that information would need to come from them.

Regards

Senior Democratic Support Officer
Leicester City Council

www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open. Book your tickets now at kriii.com

From: nigel.porter
Sent: 22 December 2014 14:30
To: ; Members-services
Cc: Nigel
Subject: Re: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info
Importance: High

Dear

There is an established Call-In procedure. I am requesting that our Call-In follows the normal policy and goes to the next proper meeting of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission which is the relevant committee.

Could I please be sent/mailed copies of the consultation responses from Sports England and Golf England regarding the proposed closure of Western Park Golf Club (the Golf Course). Also copies of any documents and or correspondence the council has regarding discussions, meetings, emails etc about any plans and or proposals for the land (Western Park Golf Club -the golf course land). Thank you

Regards

Cllr Nigel Porter

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

From:
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2014 17:21:58 +0000
To: nigel.porter ; Cllr Wayne
Naylor<Wayne.Naylor@leicester.gov.uk>; 'rossigrant' Cllr Anne
Glover<Anne.Glover@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Barbara Potter<Barbara.Potter@leicester.gov.uk>
Cc: Kamal Adatia<Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>;
>; Frank Jordan<Frank.Jordan@leicester.gov.uk>;

Liz Blyth<Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>

Subject: CALL-IN - CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES

Dear Councillors,

Please see attached, a formal acknowledgement to your call-in.

Regards

Senior Democratic Support Officer
Leicester City Council

www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open. Book your tickets now at kriii.com

Subject: FW: Golf Call In
Attachments: Links for Golf.docx

From: Liz Blyth
Sent: 08 January 2015 10:06
To: Cllr Susan Barton
Cc: Frank Jordan; Margaret Mernagh;
Subject: Golf Call In

Dear Councillor Barton

Councillor Porter requested some additional information in relation to the Golf Call In. I am attaching a copy for your information too, as the proposer for the second Call In on this matter. I will forward the attachments as a hard copy via the courier.

With best regards
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services
Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course
Attachments: Golf Western 2014 2015.pdf; Western Golf Course Outturn for 2013-14 and 2012-13.xlsx

Importance: High

From: Liz Blyth
Sent: 21 January 2015 16:23
To:
Cc: Margaret Mernagh
Subject: Western Park Golf Course
Importance: High

Dear

Please find attached the detailed accounts breakdown. This was also provided to Western Park Club in June last year.

Also attached is a detailed breakdown of the grounds maintenance costs for the 2014/15 financial year. The management costs are not separately accounted for as the golf course is managed as part of a wider cost centre for grounds maintenance for a geographical area of the City which includes all parks and green spaces (Housing, Highways as well as Parks etc). The cost of £242k in the detailed breakdown is described as the 'Bill Of Quantities' by feature, which is built up from a set of rates which allows for all on costs including management, administration etc. The salaries and on costs of the 4 green keepers are included in the £242k and total just over £100k.

The Council's grounds maintenance service is carried out to a detailed schedule of works and employees 4 full time green keepers for Western Park Golf Course managed by an area manager. The area manager is a National Certificate Horticulture (NCH) qualified green keeper and a member of BIGGA, the British and International Golf Green Keepers' Association, which is the body leading standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the green keeping profession. The Council works to ensure a high quality and professional grounds maintenance service, at the Golf Courses and in all its grounds maintenance services. As well as a good quality service, the Council is committed to fair pay and conditions for staff, acting as a fair employer with provision for equality and due care and regard for staff.

At Overview Select Committee, you indicated that you had comparator costs from other Golf Courses. It may be helpful for me to point out, that it is difficult to draw accurate comparisons without a comprehensive breakdown in terms of size of key features, greens, tees, fairways etc as these vary considerably from course to course. Even the overall size of a golf course does not take into account the level and specification of maintenance and does not indicate it is a suitable comparator. Therefore caution should be applied when drawing a comparison of 'like for like' between costs when there are many variable factors in relation to type of provision, quality of service and terms and conditions for staff. It might also be useful for you to know that with regards to the overall cost of grounds maintenance, as part of the Best Value review into grounds maintenance some years ago, independent consultants were commissioned to compare current costs and work specifications with national private sector organisations. The information obtained demonstrated that the grounds maintenance service at the time was providing the best value for money and was competitive in the market place.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best regards
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services
Leicester City Council

Telephone:
)
0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

From:]
Sent: 19 January 2015 17:17
To: Liz Blyth
Subject: Western Park Golf Course

Liz,

Further to the Overview Select Committee meeting,

We are trying to put forward an acceptable business plan for the future of Western Park Golf Course.

Can you please send me a breakdown of the accounts/finances for the course. We have been advised that the ground maintenance costs are 240K. Can you please provide a further breakdown of this including management costs. As this forms around 80% of the cost to run the course, an understanding of these costs will be critical to any plan we propose.

Any assistance you can provide will be gratefully received.

Please accept this email as confirmation, that I will be the point of contact for Western Park for all correspondence regarding this matter and I have the full backing of the clubs committee.

Regards

)
(: .
;
:
;

Subject: FW: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth
Sent: 03 February 2015 16:50
To: 'nigel.porter'
Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel; Margaret Mernagh
Subject: RE: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

Please see response to your query below:

Western Golf Course - 2013/14 financial figures;

- £25,012 in Fees relates to Golf Professional's Retainer Fees.
- £1,930 for un-metered sewage arises as a charge for Surface Water Drainage (SWD) following a site inspection by Severn Trent. No charge in 2012/13 as prior to the 2013/14 visit no charge was made for Surface Water Drainage. Previously it was assumed to be draining to local ditched / dykes. However, Severn Trent's inspection found that this was not the case.
- £140,346 income figure related to three type of income (cash, credit card and debit card) collection at the golf course.

Best regards
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter
Sent: 29 January 2015 09:27
To: Liz Blyth
Cc: Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel; Margaret Mernagh
Subject: Re: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank you for your email.

Can we have full details re. the 2013/14 figures for £25,012 in fees, un-metered sewage at £1,930 but a zero figure for the previous year and the £140,346 income figure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2015 15:08:32

To: 'nigel.porter'

Cc: _____ >; Cllr Wayne Naylor <Wayne.Naylor@leicester.gov.uk>;

Nigel <nigel.porter> ; Margaret Mernagh <Margaret.Mernagh@leicester.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

Please find attached the detailed breakdown as requested. As indicated below, this was provided by me to _____ last week and previously, in June 2014, to _____ of Western Park Golf Club.

With best regards

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council -----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 26 January 2015 08:07

To: Liz Blyth

Cc: _____ ; Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel

Subject: Re: Enquiry request for accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank you for your email. What I've received so far in terms of a detailed breakdown of the figures is only for the grounds maintenance costs. Could you please send me the detailed breakdown of all the other income and costs/expenditure. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>

Date: Thu, 22 Jan 2015 12:29:54

To: nigel.porter

Cc: _____ Cllr Wayne Naylor <Wayne.Naylor@leicester.gov.uk>;

Nigel <nigel.porter>

Subject: RE: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

I can confirm I have sent _____ the information he requested earlier this week. This included the financial information sent to you on grounds maintenance charges and the financial information on the accounts previously sent (in June 2014) to _____ ; Western Park Golf Club. Perhaps _____ could confirm to you that he has received my email.

With best regards

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 22 January 2015 11:58

To: Liz Blyth

Cc: . ; Cllr Wayne Naylor; Nigel

Subject: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

says that he has still not received all the information he has requested. Is there any reason for this? Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

Subject:

FW: Western Park Golf Course

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth

Sent: 28 January 2015 08:52

To: Cllr Susan Barton

Subject: Re: Western Park Golf Course

Dear Councillor Barton

Many thanks for the information.

With best regards

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services, Leicester City Council, City Hall, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Tel:0116 4543501

----- Original Message -----

From: Cllr Susan Barton

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 12:22 PM

To: Liz Blyth

Subject: FW: Western Park Golf Course

Hi Liz

I've received this email.

Thanks, Su

Cllr Dr Susan Barton

Western Park Ward

Leicester City Council

From:

Sent: 27 January 2015 03:12

To: Cllr Susan Barton

Subject: RE: Western Park Golf Course

This is true, but we do international work.

My mom was born and raised in London so at least I am half British!

We look at every aspect of the golf course operation, from the physical layout and facilities, to how it is positioned in the marketplace, operations, marketing and financial performance. We are adept at finding solutions when others see none.

If you're interested in how we can help you, please call me at

. I look forward to working with you!

Our services include:

- * Golf Course Consulting - all areas
- * Golf Course Operations Review
- * Feasibility Analysis
- * Golf Course Brokerage Services
- * Golf Course Management
- * Golf Course Evaluations
- * Golf Course Design
- * Golf Course Construction
- * Golf Course Marketing

Feel free to visit our website,

· to learn more about us. Some of our municipal experience

Municipal golf operations:

(Operational reviews in blue)

Arlington, Texas

Burleson, Texas

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Bossier City, Louisiana

Carrollton, Texas

Cary, North Carolina

Chambers County, Texas

Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio

Concord, North Carolina

Cook County, Minnesota

Corpus Christi, Texas

Dearborn, Michigan

Duluth, Minnesota

East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Edmond, Oklahoma

Forsythe County, Georgia

Fredericksburg, Texas

Furman University, South Carolina

Garland, Texas

Georgia State Parks

Giant's Ridge, Biwabik, Minnesota

Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Great Falls, Montana

Irving, Texas

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Lincoln, Nebraska

Mansfield, Texas

Mesquite, Texas

Mountain Home, Idaho

Nassau County, New York

New Braunsfels, Texas
Plano, Texas
Prince William County, Virginia
Sarasota, Florida
Santa Rosa, California
Slaton, Texas
State of West Virginia
Sheppard AFB, Texas
Sundown, Texas
Tampa, Florida
Tinker AFB, Oklahoma
Union, Oregon
Washoe County, Nevada
Westlake, Ohio
Westworth, Texas
Wichita Falls, Texas

Red - Management
Green - Feasibility Studies
Blue - Operation Reviews

Note: Some of these jobs were done as a subcontractor to the National Golf Foundation or other consulting companies.

Thanks

Subject: FW: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.
Attachments: Golf Western 2014 2015.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth
Sent: 19 January 2015 17:22
To: nigel.porter
Cc: Nigel; Cllr Wayne Naylor; Margaret Mernagh
Subject: RE: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

Please find attached a breakdown of the grounds maintenance costs as requested.

The Council's grounds maintenance service is carried out to a detailed schedule of works and employees 4 full time green keepers managed by an area manager. The area manager is a National Certificate Horticulture (NCH) qualified green keeper and a member of BIGGA, the British and International Golf Green Keepers' Association, which is the body leading standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the green keeping profession. The Council works to ensure a high quality and professional grounds maintenance service, at the Golf Courses and in all its grounds maintenance services. As well as a good quality service, the Council is committed to fair pay and conditions for staff, acting as a fair employer with provision for equality and due care and regard for staff.

With regard to the overall cost of grounds maintenance, as part of the Best Value review into grounds maintenance some years ago, independent consultants were commissioned to compare current costs and work specifications with national private sector organisations. The information obtained provided conclusive evidence that the grounds maintenance service at the time was providing the best value for money and was competitive in the market place. While I accept you have been provided with a range of headline figures from other golf courses, it should also be noted that it is difficult to draw accurate comparisons without a comprehensive breakdown in terms of size of key features, greens, tees, fairways etc as these vary considerably from course to course. Even the overall size of a golf course does not take into account the level and specification of maintenance and does not indicate it is a suitable comparator. Therefore caution should be applied when drawing a comparison of 'like for like' between costs when there are many variable factors in relation to type of provision, quality of service and terms and conditions for staff.

You asked whether the Council involves a management company in running/ maintaining the Course. The Council employees a Golf Professional to manage both Western Park and Humberstone Heights Golf Courses and he is responsible for the day to day management of the Golf Courses and spends time at each Course almost every day of the week. He has 28 years of experience of running Golf Courses and is a fully qualified Golf Professional recognised by the PGA, Professional Golfers' Association, which is the industry standard at every Golf Club.

Best regards
Liz Blyth

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 13 January 2015 14:30

To: Liz Blyth

Cc: Nigel; Cllr Wayne Naylor

Subject: Re: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank-you for the information. Can I please have a full breakdown of the £241,138 Grounds Maintenance costs.

How does this figure of £241,138 compare with other golf courses?

Is there a management company involved in the running/maintenance of the course?

Regards

Cllr Nigel Porter

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>

Date: Tue, 13 Jan 2015 10:29:43

To: 'nigel.porter'

Cc: Margaret Mernagh<Margaret.Mernagh@leicester.gov.uk>; /

Subject: RE: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

Please find attached a further breakdown of costs in relation to Western Park, as requested.

Regards

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter

Sent: 09 January 2015 13:25

To: Liz Blyth

Subject: Re: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth,

Thank-you for the information. Can I please have an actual breakdown of the running costs. Is the information you have sent me confidential, or am I able to pass it on to other interested people?

Regards

Nigel Porter

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Blyth <Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk>

Date: Fri, 9 Jan 2015 13:07:47

To: 'nigel.porter

Cc: Margaret Mernagh<Margaret.Mernagh@leicester.gov.uk>;

Subject: RE: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Councillor Porter

Please find attached the information you requested.

Regards

Liz

Liz Blyth

Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services Leicester City Council

Telephone:

0116 4543501 (external)

Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre is now open! Book your tickets at kriii.com

-----Original Message-----

From: nigel.porter,

Sent: 09 January 2015 12:30

To: Liz Blyth

Subject: Fw: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Dear Ms Blyth

Thank you for your email with the information. Could I please be sent the accounts (see email below).

Regards

Cllr Nigel Porter

-----Original Message-----

To:

To: Members

To: Liz.Blyth@leicester.gov.uk

Cc: Nigel

Subject: Enquiry CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES & request for documents/info/accounts/costs for Western Park Golf Course.

Sent: 6 Jan 2015 14:15

Dear

Can the council please email me a copy of the accounts/costs regarding Western Park Golf Course. It has been reported that the annual subsidy is over £120000. Thank you Regards Cllr Nigel Porter

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

7 January 2015

Dear Councillor Porter

In your email regarding the Call In relating to the City Council Golf Courses, you asked the following:

"Could I please be sent/mailed copies of the consultation responses from Sports England and Golf England regarding the proposed closure of Western Park Golf Club (the Golf Course). Also copies of any documents and or correspondence the council has regarding discussions, meetings, emails etc about any plans and or proposals for the land (Western Park Golf Club -the golf course land)."

I can confirm that there were not any consultation responses from Sport England and Golf England regarding the proposals. There was a proposal from FootGolf England, and the information on that is given below under section e) Market Proposals.

The majority of the information you request has already been published through the Council's consultation website, the Council reports and Scrutiny Commission documents. I include the links to the relevant documents for you below.

a) Consultations

Responses to the first Golf Consultation are provided here:
www.leicester.gov.uk/golf

Documents linked to the second Golf Consultation are provided here:
www.leicester.gov.uk/golf-proposal

Information regarding to responses and 'Frequently Asked Questions' are published here: www.leicester.gov.uk/golf-proposal. This includes a statement on the potential future use of the land as follows (3, in italics below)

"3. Land and Environment

3.1. What would you do with the golf course at Western Park if a decision were taken to close it?

At this stage there is no plan for alternative use of the golf course but the council would consider a mixed use, including retaining a large area of green space for the site, if the decision to close the course is taken.

3.2. Could the land be sold for private development?

The consultation exercise is to listen to the views of the public, both golfers and non-golfers alike, to find out if people think the council should invest further into Humberstone Heights and close Western Park. No decision will be made during this consultation period which ends on Friday 24th October 2014".

b) Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission Meeting on 9th October 2014

The Golf proposals were discussed in detail at Scrutiny Commission on 9th October including representations from both Golf Clubs and following a site visit and meeting with club members by the Scrutiny Commission. The links to the agenda item, reports, minutes and the Scrutiny Commission notes on their visit to the Golf Courses are here:

[http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/\(S\(t1fziw45wvh0zr45qujmstei\)\)/mgAi.aspx?ID=60593](http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/(S(t1fziw45wvh0zr45qujmstei))/mgAi.aspx?ID=60593)

c) Glenfield Parish Council

Glenfield Parish Council have asked for Western Park to be listed as an asset of community value. Information in relation to that application is included in the Golf Decision Report here:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=531> under section 3.6.11 as follows:

"3.6.11 Glenfield Parish Council has nominated Western Park Golf Club as an Asset of Community Value. The Council have decided to proceed with the nomination. This means that should the Council decide to sell the asset in the next 5 years then an initial 6 month moratorium period will apply in which community organisations can put bids together. This does not limit the Council's ability to select the most appropriate bidder once the moratorium period has ended. Glenfield Parish Council have also raised concerns on behalf of their residents about the ongoing future of the site, the importance of maintaining green space and wildlife corridor and a separation zone preserving the identities of the different residential communities. The City Mayor met with representatives from the Parish Council in October 2014 to listen to their concerns".

Glenfield Parish Council have also written to the Council outlining a proposition for the land, and their letters are provided as Appendix 1.

d) Proposal from Western Park Golf Club

As indicated in the Decision Report, the City Mayor and officers met with both Golf Clubs to hear their proposals for the future of the Courses. Both Golf Clubs also presented to Scrutiny Commission (see b above). The proposal by Western Park Golf Club is provided as Appendix 2.

e) Market proposals

Two proposals were received in relation to the Western Park Golf Course. These are commercially sensitive to the organisations who submitted them and so you are asked not to circulate them more widely. One was to use part of the

site for the development of the emerging sport of FootGolf, which is played with a soccer ball on a shortened golf course and uses 21 inch diameter cups (holes). This is a different proposition to golf and the proposal did not therefore envisage the continuation of golf at Western Park Golf Course. The second proposal, from private investor SAS Golf, was for the development of a 6 hole golf course on a much reduced parcel of land than that which is covered by the current 18 hole course at Western Park.

The Council invited both organisations to submit more detail including a business plan and further financial analysis. The responses were variable in the level of detail provided and neither offered comparable provision to the facilities at Western Park Golf Course nor were they sufficiently well advanced to regard as a feasible or a viable alternatives at this stage. The responses are provided as Appendix 3.

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services

Appendix 1 – Letters from Glenfield Parish Council - as hard copy

Appendix 2 - Western Park Golf Club proposal to City Mayor – as hard copy

Appendix 3 – Market Proposals – Footgolf and SAS Golf – as hard copies

Western Golf Course - 2013/14 Accounts

	2013/14 Outturn
Employee Costs	6,591
Running Costs	328,082
Income	-209,920
Subsidy	124,753

Notes:

1. Central overhead and infrastructure costs are not included, for example senior management, central administration, insurance and IT systems.

2. The subsidy figure of £123,107 previously published was before all transactions for the year had been finalised.

Western Park Golf Course - 2013/14 Accounts

	£
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Staffing Costs	31,603
Grounds Maintenance	241,138
Gas, Electric and Water	26,792
Rates	25,114
Building Maintenance and Services	6,746
Other Costs	<u>3,280</u>
Total Costs	334,673
<u>Income</u>	
Fees and Charges	(201,208)
Rents	<u>(8,712)</u>
Total Income	(209,920)
Subsidy	124,753

Notes:

- 1 Central overhead and infrastructure costs are not included, for example senior management, central administration, insurance and IT systems.
- 2 The subsidy figure of £123,107 previously published was before all transactions for the year had been finalised.

Western Golf Course

Contract 5

E0010 WESTERN GOLF COURSE

APC	WATERBODY - C	Western Golf course	1618 SQ.METRES	£372.03
BAA	ANNUAL BEDDING - A	Western Golf course	199 SQ.METRES	£5,822.95
BSA	AMENITY SHRUB BEDS - A	Western Golf course	337 SQ.METRES	£383.53
COA	OPEN BUILDINGS - A	Western Golf course	72 SQ.METRES	£1,829.46
CSA	SHOWERS - A	Western Golf course	10 SQ.METRES	£447.64
CTA	TOILETS - A	Western Golf course	95 SQ.METRES	£9,777.56
FBA	LITTER BINS - A	Western Golf course	22 BINS	£3,166.13
GOB	ORNAMENTAL GRASS - B	Western Golf course	278 SQ.METRES	£334.55
GOC	ORNAMENTAL GRASS - C	Western Golf course	2791 SQ.METRES	£672.25
GPB	GRASS PATHS - A	Western Golf course	2586 SQ.METRES	£1,010.43
HHA	HEDGEROW - A SIDE & TOP	Western Golf course	703 SQ.METRES	£337.55
HHB	HEDGEROW - A SIDES & TOP	Western Golf course	902 SQ.METRES	£433.11
HOA	ORNAMENTAL HEDGE - A	Western Golf course	22 SQ.METRES	£21.93
RPA	PATHS,HARD SURFACES - A	Western Golf course	970 SQ.METRES	£546.88
RPB	PATHS,HARD SURFACES - B	Western Golf course	8557 SQ.METRES	£9,648.79
SGA	GOLF GREENS - A	Western Golf course	7997 SQ.METRES	£62,506.99
SGB	GREEN APRON - A	Western Golf course	5496 SQ.METRES	£14,568.29
SGD	BUNKERS - A	Western Golf course	3875 SQ.METRES	£12,355.09
SGE	TEES - A	Western Golf course	5050 SQ.METRES	£38,484.05
SGF	ARTIFICIAL TEES - A	Western Golf course	483 SQ.METRES	£4,878.37
SGG	FAIRWAYS - A	Western Golf course	155890 SQ.METRES	£18,889.93
SGH	SEMI-ROUGH - A	Western Golf course	295878 SQ.METRES	£33,455.31
SGJ	DITCHES AND BANKS - A	Western Golf course	4712 SQ.METRES	£22,527.01
				£242,469.82

Summary for Contract 5 (91 detail records)

£242,469.82

Grand Total

£242,469.82

**WESTERN GOLF COURSE OUTFURN DATA FOR TWO FINANCIAL YEARS.
NOTE THIS EXCLUDES CENTRAL OVERHEAD COSTS (not apportioned at Cost Centre Level)**

Note:
Building Insurance charge is Zero in 2013/14, as budgets are now centralised.

account	account description	analysis	analysis description	2013/14 Outturn Actuals	2012/13 Outturn Actuals
Western Golf Course					
R1001	Contracted Spinal Local Government Staff	R100101	Contracted Spinal Local Government Staff	6,442	6,483
R1912	Employee Related Insurance	R191201	Employee Related Insurance	149	90
Total: Employee Costs				6,591	6,573
R2000	Building Works & Repairs/Maintenance/Alterations	R200001	Responsive	2,710	205
R2001	Building Services / Repairs & Maintenance	R200101	Responsive	3,446	670
R2001	Building Services / Repairs & Maintenance	R200104	Fire/Intruder Alarms Servicing / R&M	36	0
R2001	Building Services / Repairs & Maintenance	R200109	Security Fixtures & Fittings Servicing / R&M	554	554
R2100	Building Services / Repairs & Maintenance	R200112	Electricity Bills	0	375
R2100	Electricity Utilities	R210001	Gas Bills	9,094	9,632
R2220	Non Domestic Rates - LCC	R222001	Non Domestic Rates - LCC	7,758	8,803
R2430	Water Utilities	R243002	Metered Water	25,114	27,709
R2431	Sewage Utilities	R243101	Metered Sewage	7,542	3,726
R2431	Sewage Utilities	R243102	Unmetered Sewage	468	239
R2750	Grounds Maintenance	R275001	Garden Maintenance Scheme	1,930	0
R2750	Grounds Maintenance	R275002	Grounds Maintenance	0	747
R2800	Building Insurance	R280001	Building Insurance Premiums	241,138	237,604
R4000	Equipment Purchase	R400001	Equipment Purchase	0	1,408
R4000	Equipment Purchase	R400003	Cleaning Equipment Purchase	0	254
R4002	Materials Purchase	R400201	Materials Purchase	10	0
R4002	Materials Purchase	R400207	Cleaning Materials	51	45
R4005	Repairs & Maintenance - Equipment & Furniture	R400504	Fire Extinguishers & Hoses Servicing / R&M	97	53
R4006	Electric Equipment Testing	R400601	Electric Equipment Testing	165	119
R4301	IT Consumables	R430101	IT Consumables	157	0
R4302	Paper Purchase	R430201	Paper Purchase	0	20
R4303	Printing & Copying	R430301	Printing	58	0
R4402	Environment Related Services	R440208	Refuse removal	839	839
R4402	Environment Related Services	R440209	Recycling Service	881	840
R4402	Environment Related Services	R440210	Sanitary / Medical waste disposal	162	246
R4404	Management & Business & Administrative Services	R440403	Professional Fees	17	160
R4413	Public Order & Security Services	R441301	Security & Safety Services	25,012	25,012
R4500	IT Hardware	R450001	IT Hardware	425	392
R4590	Recharge - IT Internal Purchase Hardware	R459001	Recharge - IT Internal Purchase Hardware	240	0
Total: Controllable Running Costs				328,081	319,652
R9303	Sport & Fitness	R930301	Sports & Fitness Income	-140,346	-120,168
R9335	Fees & Charges	R933501	Credit & Debit Card Income - Reallocated	-25	0
R9335	Fees & Charges	R933510	Annual Fee Club	0	12
R9453	Rent - Non-Dwellings	R945321	Fees & Charges	-60,837	-62,328
			Rent General (Non Dwellings)	-8,712	-8,629
Total: Controllable Income				-209,320	-191,103
Total Western Golf Course				124,752	135,122

Please ask for:

Direct Line: 0116 454

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 18 December 2014

Councillor Porter (proposer)
Councillor Naylor (seconded)
Councillor Grant
Councillor Glover
Councillor Potter

Dear Councillor

CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES – CALL-IN OF DECISION

I acknowledge receipt of your objection to the above decision of the City Mayor on 11 December for the following submitted reason:-

“That the decision is based upon an incomplete consultation(s) and subjective evidence. The decision is significant and requires the scrutiny and consideration of the Full Council.”

In accordance with procedure rule 12F of the Executive Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution, the matter shall first be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee. It is therefore proposed that the call-in will now be considered by the Overview Select Committee at its meeting on Thursday 15th January. (This is because there is no meeting of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission prior to the next full Council meeting). Unless it is then subsequently withdrawn either by resolution at scrutiny or by agreement of the sponsor and seconded communicated in writing to the Monitoring Officer, it will then be referred to Full Council at its next scheduled meeting (22nd January 2015).

Yours sincerely

for Monitoring Officer

Please ask for:

Direct Line: 0116 454

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 18 December 2014

Councillor Barton (proposer)
Councillor Unsworth (seconder)
Councillor Cole
Councillor Westley
Councillor Newcombe

Dear Councillor

CITY COUNCIL GOLF COURSES – CALL-IN OF DECISION

I acknowledge receipt of your objection to the above decision of the City Mayor on 11 December for the following submitted reason:-

“The decision to close Western Park Golf Course will have a detrimental impact on golfers in West Leicester and on the city’s sport and outdoor leisure provision. This is a request to call in the decision to scrutiny.”

In accordance with procedure rule 12F of the Executive Procedure Rules in the Council’s Constitution, the matter shall first be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee. It is therefore proposed that the call-in will now be considered by the Overview Select Committee at its meeting on Thursday 15th January. (This is because there is no meeting of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission prior to the next full Council meeting). Unless it is then subsequently withdrawn either by resolution at scrutiny or by agreement of the sponsor and seconder communicated in writing to the Monitoring Officer, it will then be referred to Full Council at its next scheduled meeting (22nd January 2015).

Yours sincerely

for Monitoring Officer