

<i>Lea Sports PSG Football Club</i> <i>Established: 1973</i> A FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ENGLAND-ACCREDITED CLUB Home Ground: The Recreation Ground, Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hitchin, SG5 3PX		
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Boundary Fencing – Pirton Recreation Ground

June 2024

This application is for two stretches (each 20 metres long) of 5-metre high fencing to run behind goalmouths at the eastern perimeter of Pirton Recreation Ground. There is some existing fencing, but this is less than 2 metres high and was installed some 20 years ago. In the meantime, the hedgerows along that perimeter have expanded, so that in most places they almost swallow the existing fence. The footpath which used to run behind the fence and which allowed players to retrieve footballs which had ended up in the hedgerow, is now totally overgrown and is unusable. (Photographs of the existing building are attached below).

There are two pitches which have goalmouths at that end of the Recreation Ground. Last season one was used for adult 11-a-side football and the other for junior 11-a-side and 9-a-side matches. In 2024-25, the adult football will continue on Pitch 1, but Pitch 2 will have to be lengthened to accommodate an Under 17 team and 3 Under 15 teams, so the goalmouth will be much nearer the perimeter than before. (Blue markings will be installed within Pitch 2 to accommodate an Under 13 9-a-side team).

Discussions are taking place with Pirton Parish Council (the landowners) about cutting back the hedgerow, but this has not happened for at least 10 years and there is some disagreement as to whose responsibility this is. Even if the hedgerow is cut back, a much higher fence than the existing one is required.

Since the installation of a new ditch just beyond the eastern boundary, to improve drainage on the ground, any balls which fly over the hedge have to be retrieved by a rather long trek to a gateway and bridge over the ditch in the northern corner of the Recreation Ground. The installation of fencing would greatly reduce the number of balls going into the adjacent field (and frequently being lost if crops are high), as well as reducing the number lost or punctured in the trees and hawthorn hedgerow itself.

Two quotations are attached, which give similar prices for the installation. Vennscapes £15,552 and Aaron Fencing £14,754 (including VAT). Although Vennscapes are slightly more expensive, we would like to accept this quote, as the staff have visited the site and advised on tree pruning, as well as other aspects of the installation.

Site Layout



Pitch 1 = 11v11. Pitch 2 = 9v9. Pitch 3 = 5v5. Pitch 4 = 7v7.

The pitches in the above picture are already benefitting from a Grass Roots Pitch Improvement grant, which has just completed its fourth year.

Previous grants have been approved for the purchase of portable training lights, which are used to illuminate the area between the top car park and pitches 3 and 4.

A recent grant has also been approved for the provision of 2 shipping containers close to the Clubhouse (not shown in this photograph).

Site Photographs

Looking east, towards the perimeter



Looking south, along the existing, damaged fence. The portable goalposts are chained to this fence when not in use.



Looking north, with a section of the existing fence just visible through the overgrown hedgerow.



Full view, looking east from the Clubhouse, showing the hedgerow running along the eastern perimeter. The cricket square is visible in the foreground.



Stephen Smith
Hon. General Secretary
Lea Sports PSG
12th June 2024