

# Cricket irrigation request

## Non-confidential

Report by: Elaine Atkin

Date: 29/10/25

Report to: Parish Council 11/2025

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We have received the following request from Heighington Cricket Club:

*"We made a previous request a few years ago to lay a water supply to the cricket square. Although the PC gave consent we decided not to go ahead with the project in case the Chafer Grub infestation took hold on the playing surface. It seems that the cricket square has thankfully escaped infestation and so we'd like to reapply for the same consent.*

*When weather conditions are dry, last summer was particularly exceptional, irrigation is required for, in particular, the surface being played on next.*

*The need to do this is mainly two fold; the continued healthy growth of the playing surface and the ability to roll and flatten the wicket to enable safe play. To do this, we're currently using a hose reel and sprinkler connected to the water tap in the outside toilet. This does suffice in the main but creates several issues.*

*The inability to target water to the area needed uses more water than is actually required. The connections between tap, hose and sprinkler is subject to leaking under pressure, again wasting water.*

*The door to the toilet has to be left unlocked and supervision can't be guaranteed for the duration of the watering.*

*The irrigation equipment is subject to potential tampering when not supervised, again breaking the connection wastes water.*

*What we'd like to propose is that, at the cost to the Cricket Club, we lay an underground 18mm alkathene pipe connecting the dressing room water supply to a feed at the cricket square - ideally a pop-up watering system or to a lockable, below surface stop tap.*

*A pop up system would enable targeted watering, give a secure, difficult to tamper with supply, be easy to manage and could be measured by meter if required to enable the water usage to be calculated. A targeted and measured application would reduce water use. Pop up sprinklers sit permanently at ground level, 'pop-up' when water pressure is applied and 'sit down' again when the water is turned off.*

*Examples of such systems are shown on this link:*

*<https://www.easygardenwatering.co.uk/pop-up-lawn-sprinklers>*

*Alternatively, an underground supply to the square feeding a lockable stop tap would be beneficial. Whilst not giving such a targeted supply, it would be more secure, more leak proof and give great convenience than we have at the moment.*

*Please let me know if you need more information or detail.*

### **Details of previous request:**

Full Council in December 2022 considered a request from Heighington Cricket Club for permission to lay a water supply from the changing room, connecting to pop-up sprinklers or a lockable stop tap on the cricket square at Potterhanworth Road sports ground. A representative of the Cricket Club was present at the meeting and clarified that the Cricket Club would fund these items. Questions were raised by council regarding ongoing maintenance. The council would require installation of a separate water meter, to ensure that sewerage charges don't have to be paid.

Council resolved (minute 145/M/22) to agree to the request in principle and the Cricket Club were asked to do further feasibility investigation and report back to council at a future meeting. (The Cricket Club did not take this forward).

### **Recommendation**

Council to consider this new request, taking account of any possible implications and constraints including security, financial and Health & Safety matters.