

Potterhworth Road Sports Ground lower field

Non-confidential

Report by: Elaine Atkin

Date: 29/10/25

Report to: Parish Council 11/2025

We have received the following enquiry from Heighington Cricket Club:

On behalf of HCC.

Could you please confirm the proposed future of the lower field at Potter Rd Sports field, in particular, if consideration can be given to reintroduce football to the area or, alternatively, if consideration could be given to creating a cricket square and outfield so that one sports activity does not unwittingly antagonise the other.

I understand that Chafer Grub has been an issue on the lower field but wonder if it remains so?

Background:

- Prior to 2020 the lower field at Potterhanworth Road Sports Ground was used for football training by HBW.
- In 2020/21 the lower field was badly damaged by crows looking for chafer grubs and it was deemed no longer safe/suitable to play football on.
- Property Services Committee meeting in November 2022 confirmed that Nematodes had been applied to the lower field but had no effect. A grass care company confirmed that to eradicate the chafer bugs will be a time consuming and expensive process over a few years with no guarantees, as they were likely to come back.
- In a recent 2025 meeting with HBW (about the floodlights on the lower field), they confirmed that they currently use the top field for junior football and now train elsewhere.
- Cricket play on the top field.
- The lower field is used for parking when there is a football or cricket match on. (Even then, there can be issues with vehicles parking on the side of Potterhanworth Road or outside residential homes on Edward Barker Road).
- HBW have commented that they probably wouldn't be able to manage the volume of cars/car parking if the lower field was brought back into use (potentially providing further football pitches).

Recommendation

Council to consider whether it wants to/intends to bring the lower field back up to a playable standard, considering any implications of this.