



Full Council

18 June 2026

Item 12

Lindfield Parish Council

Committee Meeting	Full Council
Item	12
Report of	Parish Clerk
Date	18 June 2026
Subject	Lindfield Cricket Club Second Square Application

Purpose of report:

1. To consider Lindfield Parish Council's position concerning Lindfield Cricket Club's (herein LCC) proposed second cricket square on Lindfield Common.

Recommendation(s)

Council is recommended to:

- a) **Confirm what the Parish Council's position and reasoning is regarding the proposal.**
- b) **Submit the Parish Council's position to MSDC and ask that it be included in any report to their Cabinet on the matter.**

Background

2. Mid Sussex District Council (herein MSDC) is the landowner of Lindfield Common. There is one cricket pitch on Lindfield Common. LCC would like a further pitch on Lindfield Common.
3. In April 2025, a meeting was held between the Parish Council and LCC regarding their desire for a second cricket square on Lindfield Common. The meeting report is attached as **Appendix 1**.
4. In December 2025, the Parish Council considered a request by LCC to comment on their proposed second square application prior to submission to MSDC (see **Appendix 2**). The minutes of that meeting state:

505. Lindfield Cricket Club

Cllr Beecroft took no part in the discussion having previously declared an interest in this item.

The Deputy Clerk referred his report. The Chair and Vice Chair of the committee had met with representatives of Lindfield Cricket Club (LCC) on 17th April 2025 in response to LCC's initial proposals for a second square on the common. This meeting was undertaken under the approach outlined by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in respect of pre-application developments, which LPC have adopted.

The report was **noted** and it was **agreed** that it was appropriate to await a formal application to MSDC before considering any response from LPC. Once an application is received from MSDC this will be discussed at Full Council.

5. In January 2026, LCC submitted an application to MSDC for a second cricket square on Lindfield Common (see **Appendix 3**). MSDC initially indicated it could not proceed without a formal application to the Planning Inspectorate. LCC sought clarification and contacted the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate advised that '*A grassed square is not in itself restricted works for which consent under s38 of the Commons Act 2006 is needed*'. LCC informed MSDC of this advice and asked how they wished to proceed, noting the Planning Inspectorate's comments. In May 2026 MSDC advised LCC that they:
'will be working with my Legal and Governance colleagues over the coming weeks, to thoroughly review your application and- in line with our governance processes- to prepare a formal report for consideration by the Council's Cabinet. I will keep you updated on our progress with this and will of course let you know if I have any questions or require any further information'.

6. The Parish Council asked MSDC to advise on the proposed date(s) when the MSDC Cabinet would consider the matter. At the time of issuing the agenda for our meeting on 18 June 2026, no reply had been received. To ensure that the Parish Council has had a chance to consider this matter before any MSDC Cabinet meetings, it has been included on our 18 June agenda. Should we hear from MSDC before our meeting, members will be advised, and this matter may be deferred.

Considerations

7. Arguments both for and against a second square have appeared in Lindfield Life (see **Appendix 4**).
8. MSDC is the decision maker. The Parish Council is not assessing the legality of the application. Members are asked to consider the Parish Council's position on the application in much the same way as we comment on planning applications within our boundary. This position would then be submitted to MSDC for consideration for inclusion in any Cabinet reports on the application. Any agreed position is for submission to MSDC only and should not be considered support (in the interim and/or long term) for any groups/organisations, either for or against the application.

The Parish Council would appear to have the following options:

- a) Support the application.
- b) Neither support nor oppose the application.
- c) Oppose the application.

Appendices

- 1 LPC Meeting with LCC 17 April 2025
- 2 PTTC papers from the 16 December 2025
- 3 LCC application submitted to MSDC (Hyperlinked)
- 4 Articles from the September edition of Lindfield Life (pages 54-55)

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Appendix Three – LPC Meeting with LCC 17th April 2025**Attended by:**

Lindfield Parish Council (LPC)	Lindfield Cricket Club (LCC)
Cllr Val Upton (VU - Chair, Planning, Transport and Traffic Committee)	Jason Morgan (JM - Chairman)
Cllr Trevor Webster (TW - Vice-Chair, Planning, Transport and Traffic Committee)	Malcolm Page (MP - Webmaster and Groundsman)
David Parsons (DP - Deputy Parish Clerk)	

Second Cricket Square on Lindfield Common

Following contact from LCC, the meeting was held on the common utilising the approach outlined by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in respect of pre-application developments. LCC had previously shared their document 'Enhancing Community Sports / Second Cricket Square'.

LCC explained that their proposal has been shared with the Planning Inspectorate, following MSDC's guidance to approach them directly. Advising that they had also met with Cllr Cavan Woods (MSDC and LPC) and Rob Anderton (Assistant Director, Commercial Services & Contracts MSDC). In addition to the main proposal, LCC explained that they would also be seeking permission for a smallish area of astroturf in front of their crickets' nets, as especially for younger players not wearing spikes, the current grass area was impractical in many weather conditions.

Turning to the proposed second cricket square, LCC explained that they currently had eight teams but, other than the 1sts/2nds, the others were unable to play 'at home' on the common as either the pitch was in use or, league rules/umpires required that the pitch was not played on immediately before a league game, so as to ensure that it was in the best possible condition. Consequently, the remaining teams had to play elsewhere and were spread across Hickmans Lane Recreation Ground and Walsted School, and other local grounds LCC considered that they had a thriving club and a strong youth academy, spanning U9-15-year-olds but that the current pitch situation meant that many players never got to play at home and experience fully belonging to the club. LCC explained that the Hickmans Lane grounds were in very poor condition, being very uneven and that the 'pavilion' was organised around the nursery, leaving small changing rooms and generally inadequate facilities. They said that two matches had to be postponed at Hickman's Lane last season due to concerns expressed by the umpires.

In answer to questions from LPC, LCC explained that the proposed pitch (the proposed square of which had been 'white lined' on the common and MP 'walked' the likely boundary) would move slightly up and down the common as different wickets were used and the boundary max 50m boundary would contract slightly for the lower teams. The new square would comprise up to 7 grass wickets and, potentially, one astro wicket furthest away from the existing pitch.

LPC expressed concerns over the potential impact on the Bonfire Society and Village Day, if more of the common was roped off to protect both squares. LCC accepted those concerns and, whilst the preference would be to rope off these areas, considered that covers/cover material (no details discussed) could be employed to minimise any impact on village events. LCC said for the rest of the time their expectation would be that the squares would be roped off – although the rest of the pitch would be available for people to use outside of match days.

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In answer to questions over the exact number of days when both pitches might be in use, following DP's analysis of LCC's proposal document, LCC advised that they had reviewed the numbers and would be supplying updated detail to clarify the position. LPC were keen to understand the practical impact on other users of the common when two pitches were in use at the same time, LCC were of the view that their experience was that there was plenty of space even with two pitches in use for the volumes of visitors generally seen on the common, TW suggested that they consider recording visitor numbers two or three times a day when matches were being played, so as to evidence the position in respect of likely space pressures. JM agreed that this might be useful.

LCC said that due to the fixture requirements it was not possible to stagger the start/finish times of matches to ensure that only one pitch was in use at any one time. Also, it was not possible to restrict the new square to lower age groups so as to reduce the size of the boundary – although they said that lower age group team rarely hit the ball in the air anywhere near the boundary – and use a composite ball rather than a traditional cricket ball.

LCC said that they had no recorded data of accidents and/or near misses from non-playing people using the common when the current pitch is being used.

In answer to LPC's questions as to the process for this application, LCC advised that MSDC had set out three criteria which they would need to address, and they would share this guidance with LPC. LCC advised that they had also consulted the Bonfire Society and, more recently, the King Edward Hall, as to their plans.

LPC explained that this meeting was unable to provide a view or response to the club's proposal but that the notes from the meeting would be shared with both LPC members and LCC for transparency. Depending on MSDC's / the Planning Inspectorate's requirements and LPC's view, the matter would be put to a future committee meeting and an appropriate response considered.

Outstanding

1. ~~Updated projections of when two pitches would be in use~~ – see postscript overleaf
2. Details of the criteria advised by MSDC to LCC
3. Analysis of visitor numbers on the common during matches

David Parsons
Deputy Parish Clerk

2nd May 2025

Postscript

Since the meeting LCC have supplied more details and following further questioning, it appears that:

1. Both village primary schools and Oathall have provided support letters for the proposal
2. Based on the 2025 Fixtures, there would be 20 matches taking place on both pitches, played over the 137 day season from May to second week of September. Of which 15 matches would be played on Saturdays, leaving 5 Saturday's when only one match would be played on the common. On one Sunday two matches would be played.

Lindfield Village Day takes place during the cricket season, which will be another day when the common is unavailable for public use.

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Report:	11. Lindfield Cricket Club (LCC)– second square update
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Summary:

LCC have now provided an updated proposal in respect of its intended application for a second cricket square on Lindfield Common. LCC have advised that they would be happy to meet with the Parish Council to discuss their updated plans before formally submitting an application to MSDC.

This report recommends that LPC make no further comments until any application is submitted to MSDC and the anticipated consultation process thereafter.

Background:

The Chair and Vice Chair of PTTC met with representatives of LCC on 17th April 2025 in response to LCC's initial proposals for a second square on the Common. This meeting was undertaken under the approach outlined by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in respect of pre-application developments, which LPC have adopted, and the meeting note is shown in Appendix Three.

Current Position

LCC have offered to have a further meeting with LPC in the light of their updated and detailed proposals, which has been circulated to members as a separate document.

Financial Implications**Policy Context****Sustainability Implications****Risk Management Implications****Legal Implications****Way Forward**

Options

1. undertake a further meeting with LCC, in line with the adopted NALC protocol
2. respond to LCC's latest document without a further meeting
3. await a formal application to MSDC and respond in the light of MSDC's anticipated consultation approach

Recommended Action

It is unclear whether substantial further information might be gained from a further meeting and recognising the strength of feeling demonstrated on Lindfield Gossip and Friends of Lindfield Common (both Facebook groups) earlier this year, it seems likely that this will be a divisive issue. Rather than become further involved at this stage, it seems appropriate to await the formal application to MSDC before considering the response from LPC, if any.

Appendices/Background Papers – update from LCC circulated concurrently

David Parsons
Deputy Parish Clerk

11th December 2025

New group in support of Lindfield Common

By Chris Matthews, Friends of Lindfield Common
Lindfield Common, a treasured green space in our village, is now at the centre of a heated debate following a proposal from Lindfield Cricket Club (LCC) to construct a second cricket pitch on the Common (see April edition of Lindfield Life).

Whilst the cricket club has a rich history dating back to 1747, and plays a significant role in promoting the sport amongst our juniors, many villagers are voicing their concerns about the implications of this expansion on the accessibility and enjoyment of the Common.

As a 'Common Land', it holds special significance, allowing public access for a myriad of activities. The essence of the Common lies in its accessibility and versatility, providing a space for everyone in the community and it was against this backdrop that a community group was formed called Friends of Lindfield Common (FOLC) which aims to ensure Lindfield Common remains open access to all.

Members of the group are concerned that the Cricket Club's expansion would transform Lindfield Common from a multi-use community space into one focused almost solely on cricket. They highlight that the Common is meant for everyone, not just for the benefit of one organisation. With other pitches available locally, many in our group question the necessity of a second pitch on the Common.

The formation of FOLC represents a collective response to the perceived threat posed by the proposed cricket pitch expansion. The group aims to advocate for the rights of all community members to enjoy the Common without restrictions imposed by a single sport.

FOLC is committed to raising awareness about the potential consequences of the Cricket Club's plans, which could significantly reduce the usable space for other activities. Many community members believe that the introduction of a second pitch would lead to restrictions on access, particularly during peak usage times in the summer when families and individuals come to the Common to enjoy picnics, games, and leisurely strolls.

The objections to the Cricket Club's proposal are rooted in several key concerns:

1. **Misleading Calculations:** The Cricket Club claims that only 22% of the Common would be affected by the new pitch. However, many residents argue that this figure is misleading. It includes areas that are not freely accessible to the public, such as the Bowling Club and tennis courts. In reality, the actual usable space could be reduced by over 50% during peak times, limiting access for families, dog walkers, and casual users of the Common.
2. **Impact on Community Events:** The Common is a vital venue for numerous community events, such as Village Day and Bonfire Night, which attract thousands of visitors each year. Some fear that the proposed cricket square would interfere with these events, potentially leading to reduced attendance



3. **Limited Consultation:** Many community members feel that the Cricket Club's consultation process has been inadequate. The QR code provided in their article in April's edition of Lindfield Life only allowed for support of the proposal, effectively sidelining opposition. Friends of Lindfield Common advocate for a more inclusive consultation process that genuinely engages the entire community.
4. **Preserving Multi-Use Space:** The Common is intended for diverse recreational activities, not just cricket. FOLC believe that allowing a second pitch would transform the Common from a multi-use community space into one dominated by a single sport, undermining the very essence of what makes the Common special.

The Friends of Lindfield Common are determined to ensure that the voices of all community members are heard in this matter. They are actively seeking support from residents who share their concerns about the Cricket Club's plans and you can join their Facebook group page by following the attached QR code. Friends of Lindfield Common aim to present a united front to Mid Sussex District Council, advocating for the preservation of the Common as a space for everyone.



As the group moves forward, members invite fellow residents to join their cause. Whether through sharing opinions, attending gatherings, or simply spreading the word, every voice matters in this fight to preserve Lindfield Common.

The final decision on whether to allow the proposal or not will be one for Mid Sussex District Council. If you feel strongly enough about keeping the Common available for all, you may wish to register your objection by sending an email to Mr Robert Anderton who is MSDC's Assistant Director for Services and Contracts at robert.anderton@midsex.gov.uk. You should include your personal reasons detailing why you object to this proposal.

If residents unite to voice their objections to the Cricket Club's proposal, we affirm our commitment to preserving the Common as a place for all, for years to come.

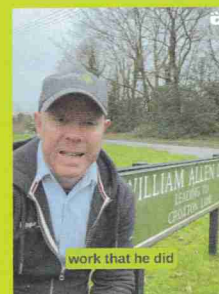
What does Mid Sussex District Council say?

A spokesperson for MSDC said: "In 2023/24, Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) agreed that Lindfield Cricket Club (LCC) could explore the possibility of a second square on Lindfield Common. They were told it was their responsibility to engage with the Planning Inspectorate and carry out a consultation of key stakeholders.

"Once completed, LCC must submit a formal application to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration.

"Any changes to the Common that might impact its availability for general, informal recreation can only be made if Common Land Consent is given by the Planning Inspectorate.

"Should this happen, the Club would separately need to formally approach the Council (as landowner) for permission to proceed and any decision would be subject to feedback from the community."



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Lindfield Cricket Club would like to clarify any confusion that might have arisen following articles published on social media in response to its proposal for a second square on Lindfield Common.

By Malcolm Page, Lindfield CC

- Discussions have been held with MSDC to agree the process for the Cricket Club to follow. No application has been submitted to MSDC.
- The Common is managed by MSDC in accordance with the Scheme of Management for Lindfield Common 1899. The scheme of management permits the provision of cricket grounds.
- LCC has undertaken stakeholder engagement to gain feedback on our proposal with comments being reviewed. We have been liaising with local elected officers and organisations at national and local level to gauge how best to gain feedback for our proposals. Based on their advice, we have been in correspondence with other sports users, local schools and representatives of other event users on the Common such as Lindfield Village Day and Bonfire Society. We have placed articles in Lindfield Life as well as posted on our own Facebook page and the Lindfield Gossip Facebook page. Collectively, this could reach an audience of more than 30,000. We have replied to correspondence received as well as provided three detailed Q&A responses to items raised on Lindfield Gossip. Our email address for further information and/or comments is: enquiries@lindfieldcc.com.
- We are proposing a maximum of 25 occasions (mixture of mornings/afternoons/evenings) during the cricket season when two matches could be played at the same time. Based on the 2025 season, there could have been 20 occasions matches played at the same time. Games will be a mixture of development, academy (U9 to U15) or Ladies' matches. The second pitch would also allow the local schools to have access to a cricket facility.
- Instances of two matches being played at the same time would not occur on Bank Holidays, Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, or Sunday afternoons. Likewise, there would be no changes to the existing arrangements when no matches are played on Lindfield Village Day and only one match when the Circus, Fair or when similar 'booked' events use the Common.
- Providing temporary fencing around the second square is permitted under the scheme of management of Lindfield Common 1899. Our proposals will include options for only roping/fencing around the second square during key occasions when the ground is soft to protect the new grass and retain the integrity.
- The proposed size of the second cricket square (pitches) would be one third of the size of our current area, with a much-reduced boundary size to reflect the standard of cricket and age groups taking part.
- The Lindfield Bonfire Society (LBS) has forwarded details from the fireworks provider of their requirements to ensure there is no detrimental impact to the operation/event. In so far as, if required the second square could be used as the launch site for the fireworks.
- Although the pavilion at Hickmans Lane is being extended, it doesn't include improvements to the ground or the pitches. Last year, several matches were cancelled due to health and safety concerns. This year, we have continued to receive negative comments from opposition teams.



Full Council

18 June 2026

Item 13

Committee Meeting:	Full Council
Item:	13
Report of:	Councillor T Webster on behalf of the 20mph working group
Date:	18 th June 2026
Subject:	Community Highways Application for a village-wide 20 mph speed limit

Purpose of Report:

1. To update the Full Council following the published results of the 20-mph consultation, this report is seeking approval from the Full Council for LPC to submit an application to West Sussex County Council (herein WSCC) to have a 20-mph speed limit within the boundaries of the parish council.

Recommendation(s)

Members are recommended to confirm the option they wish to proceed with:

- Option 1** That the Full Council agrees to submit an application to WSCC to have a 20-mph speed limit within the boundaries of the parish council submitted before the WSCC 31st July 2026 deadline.
- Option 2** That the Full Council rejects the proposal resulting in no application being submitted before the WSCC 31st July 2026 deadline.

Background

2. Following the hand-delivered leaflet drop to each household, the stand in the High Street on 28th February 2026, the engagement materials at our Christmas Festival Night stall, and other consultation events, the following results specifically addressing question 13 (Do you support the proposal that the speed limit in Lindfield parish should be 20mph?) were received from residents:

802 replies received

606	75.561%	in favour
187	23.316%	not in favour
9	1.122%	did not submit a response

3. The full analysis is attached (*see appendix 1*); it provides context and more details around why respondents voted either in favour or not. On Lindfield Village Day, our stall promoted the results of the consultation and details on what happens next (*see appendix 2*).
4. In addition to the consultation results the council have also received support from our MP, County Councillor and Councillors at MSDC.
5. The 20mph working group believes there is sufficient support to proceed with an application to WSCC, while acknowledging that 187 responses (23.316%) were opposed.
6. At its meeting held on the 2nd June, the PTTC agreed to support the application leading to this report being submitted to the Full Council:

12. To note the 20 MPH consultation results and agree a recommendation

- 12.1 The committee **noted** the consultation results and Cllr Webster's report shared by the Deputy Clerk in her Clerk's report.
- 12.2 In Cllr Webster's absence, Cllr Woolley proposed that the committee recommend to Full Council that an application be submitted to WSCC, by the 31 July deadline, for village-wide 20mph Community Highways Scheme.

With all in favour it was **agreed** to make the recommendation to Full Council.

Cllr Beecroft thanked Cllr Woolley and the working group for the work undertaken.

- 7. The Transport Working Group acknowledges that information regarding wider safety concerns was also received via the consultation, and it will review this following WSCC's response to the submitted application.

Appendices

- 1 Consultation on proposed reduction of speed limit in Lindfield parish to 20mph
- 2 Information displayed at Lindfield Village Day

Consultation on proposed reduction of speed limit in Lindfield parish to 20mph

Response Summary

802 Valid Responses¹

Questions 1-2 omitted as personal data.

Q3 What is your main connection to Lindfield?

769	I live in Lindfield	5	I work in Lindfield	3	Education
13	Visitor	11	Other		

Q4 What age group are you?

3	Under 18	467	18-67	324	Above 67
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Q5 How did you hear about this consultation?

539	Council leaflet	122	Word of mouth
96	Social Media	185	Lindfield Life magazine
8	Council noticeboard	6	Shop window
33	Other		

Q6 In a typical week how do you move around the village?

735	On foot	87	Bicycle	553	Car
60	Public transport ²		Other		

Q7 If road traffic was calmer would you make more of your local trips by active travel (walking and wheeling)?

462	Yes	322	No
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Q8 Do you think the volume of traffic detracts from the quality of life in the village?

662	Yes	283	No
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Q9 How concerned are you about vehicle speeds in Lindfield?

408	Very concerned	166	Quite concerned
105	Slightly concerned	116	Not at all concerned

Q10 How concerned are you about traffic safety in Lindfield?

431	Very concerned	173	Quite concerned
107	Slightly concerned	84	Not at all concerned
1	N/A (I do not live in the village)		

Q11 Which of the following do you think would improve road safety in Lindfield?

269	Adding obstructions - like speed bumps, chicanes, width pinch points etc
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¹ 22 Responses were removed as they could not be validated.

Lindfield Parish Council

497	Banning HGVs
445	Adding pedestrian crossings
579	Having a 20mph speed limit

Q12 If introduced, what impact do you think a 20mph limit would have on road safety in Lindfield?


489	Significantly improve safety	126	Slightly improve safety
126	No significant change	25	Slightly worsen safety
29	Significantly worsen safety		

Q13 Do you support the proposal that the speed limit in Lindfield parish should be 20mph?

606	Yes	187	No
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Note: some respondents did not answer every question. For example, 9 did not answer question 13.

What happens next?

 2 June – Our **Planning Traffic & Transport Committee** will meet to review the results and consider making the following recommendation to **Full Council**:

That the Committee agrees to make a proposal to the Full Council for an application be made for a parish wide 20 mph speed limit submitted to WSCC before 31st July 2026 deadline.

 18 June – **Full Council** will consider the recommendation.

If agreed, the Council will proceed with the proposal, and will submit a Community Highways Scheme application to WSCC ahead of the 31 July deadline.

