

Agenda Item	13
Report No	LA/10/14

Provision and Maintenance of Council Owned Playing Fields in Lochaber

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Summary

This report lists the playing fields in the Lochaber area which are the responsibility of the Council and High Life Highland and describes the maintenance arrangements currently in place. It also outlines the provision which will be made as part of the new school building programme for multi-use games areas which will be available for community use and an update on the requests from Fort William FC and Fort William Shinty Club in regard to Claggan Park and An Aird respectively.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council owns the following community playing fields in the Lochaber area:-
An Aird, Claggan Park, King George V [Town Park] in Fort William
Canal Park and Pulp Mill Park, Caol
Jubilee Park, Ballachulish
Banavie Playing Field

The Black Parks at Inverlochy are owned by British Alcan but leased to the Council until 2024. In addition there are 2 grass pitches at Lochaber High School.

- 1.2 There are also a number of all weather playing fields at the Lochaber Secondary Schools which are available for community bookings.

2 Present Management and Maintenance Arrangements

- 2.1 Apart from the LHS grass pitches all the other facilities outlined in paragraph 1.1 above are managed on behalf of the Council by High Life Highland. The LHS grass pitches are managed by the School.
- 2.2 Maintenance of the facilities is carried out by Transport, Environmental and Community (TEC) Services as set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA), Ground Maintenance, a copy of which is available in the North Committee Room for Members' inspection.
- 2.3 The SLA covers the annual, routine, planned maintenance for all the pitches managed by HLH and includes small gate/fence repairs, perimeter hedge trimming, litter picking, minor drainage repairs, goal post and netting maintenance and replacement and other works for certain users such as athletics clubs.
- 2.4 The indicative seasonal maintenance programme is attached as **Appendix I** to this report. It does not take into consideration those other specialist elements of ground maintenance required – such as verti-draining, scarifying and top dressing; large area re-turfing (beyond the penalty spot and goal areas to a reasonable

frequency), full park fertilisation or over-seeding which are all additional works which need to be carried out but are not covered in the SLA.

- 2.5 There is also an identified gap in resources for a higher maintenance specification following major capital works on pitches which is something **sportscotland** would like to see in place.
- 2.6 Over the past year or so measures have been introduced which have resulted in improvements in the maintenance of the grass pitches. These include the availability of a slitting machine and tractor, a new cutting deck has been introduced for grass cutting, and grass cutting is now done earlier in the week at a level that allows the grass to be as per the specification for user clubs. Monitoring meetings between TEC Services and High Life Highland (HLH) take place weekly to look at any particular local issues. The introduction of the post of Performance & Inspection Co-ordinator has also helped monitoring procedures and to ensure that the Service Level Agreement is complied with. An example of such is attached as **Appendix 2**. Additionally, regular communication and dialogue between TEC Services, HLH and the user clubs are assisting in the delivery of the SLA.

3. All Weather Playing Fields

- 3.1 The all weather playing fields are maintained through a Council wide contract supplemented where appropriate by routine maintenance carried out by school janitors. The facilities at the PPP schools are managed and maintained according to the contract with the relevant company.
- 3.2 The all weather pitch at Lochaber High School is scheduled to be extended and upgraded this summer with a new 3G surface, new fencing and lighting.
- 3.3 Multi Use Games Courts will be provided at each of the new schools in the Fort William area and will be available for community use outwith school hours at Lundavra, Caol and at the Gaelic Medium Primary School.

4. An Aird and Claggan Parks

- 4.1 Members will be aware of Fort William Shinty Club's interest in taking on the tenancy and management of An Aird and of Fort William Football Club's request to be the primary users of Claggan Park to meet the SFA criteria and retain membership of the Highland League. Discussions are ongoing with both organisations and will be required to be considered initially by the Council's Asset Management Board at an early date.

5. Lochaber Sports Association

- 5.1. It is understood that Lochaber Sports Association is currently examining the feasibility of setting up a social enterprise company with the potential to seek to take on the maintenance of parks and playing fields in Lochaber.

<h3>6. Recommendation</h3>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">6.1 Members are invited to note and comment on the foregoing report and Appendices.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 12 February 2014

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LOCHABER SPORTS PARKS ANNUAL PLANNED MAINTENANCE

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLAGGAN (Football) July > May FOOTBALL 50mm	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4. FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	Closed season	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS 4. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT
BLACK (Varied) RUGBY -75-100mm FOOTBALL - 50mm SHINTY - 25mm	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4. FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	1. 1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	1. 1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS 4. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT
AN AIRD (Shinty) March >Oct SHINTY 25mm	Closed season	Closed season	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	Closed season
KGV (General use) GENERAL USE 25-50mm	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS SLIT/ROLL AS APPROPRIATE	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT
PULP (Shinty) March > Oct SHINTY - 25mm	SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW	SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1.SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. CUT ONCE PER WEEK (OR AS NECESSARY TO STAY WITHIN 25MM PROGRAMMED SPEC) 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	1. SLIT/ROLL AS APPROPRIATE
CANAL (Football) July > May FOOTBALL 50mm	SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW	SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENTS	Closed season	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL AS APPROPRIATE	1. SLIT/ROLL AS APPROPRIATE
JUBILEE (Varied) SHINTY 25mm FOOTBALL 50mm	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1.SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL IF GROUND CONDITIONS ALLOW 2. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT
BANAVIE (Rugby) Aug > May	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT RUGBY - 75-100mm	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	Closed season	1. OVERSEED PARK IF REQUIRED	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT
MORAR (Varied) GENERAL USE - 50mm	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3 LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2. CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT 4.FERTILISE (IF REQD) AND APPLY SELECTIVE WEEDKILLER	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.CUT AS REQUIRED FOR GENERAL USE 3. LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)	1. SLIT/ROLL 2.LINE PARK AS PER BOOKING REQUIREMENT (by LOCAL PARK COMMITTEE)

NOTE: WHITE LINE ALL PARKS AS PER BOOKINGS LIST DISTRIBUTED BY LEISURE CENTRE. Parks works also include small gate/fence repairs, perimeter hedge trimming, litter picking, minor drainage repairs, goal post and netting maintenance and replacement and other works for athletics clubs - all of which are contained within annual budget and SLA.

An Aird

The park is in good condition for this time of year and appears well maintained. There are a few issues off the playing surface but these mostly relate to damage from vehicles. I recommend avoiding use of tractor mounted equipment during frost and very wet conditions. Spiking should be undertaken in drier weather as and when surface conditions allow. This will retain good drainage. At this point in time the park surface is ok.

Claggan Park

Surface is in good condition for time of year and complies with SLA. The only real issue within the main pitch area is the grass being too low. Off the main pitch there are a few minor drainage problems but overall very good. Park fence and surrounds require minor safety repairs.