

# Belhus Cricket Club

Established 1960

Headquarters and Main Ground: The Village Green, North Stifford, Grays, Essex RM16 5UG  
Clubhouse Telephone: 01375 385505  
www.belhuscc.co.uk

**Hon. Fixture Secretary**  
Mike Randall

**Hon. Treasurer**  
Barry Ruck

**Chairman**  
Tom Thompson

**Hon. Youth Chairman**  
Jim Robertson

**Hon. General Secretary**  
Cliff Cansdale  
Tel 01708 863476  
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7th February 2022

Councillor R Gledhill  
Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet  
Thurrock Council

Dear Councillor Gledhill

***Proposed Introduction of additional Pay and Display Car Parking sites within Thurrock  
Charging Period – Seven Days Per Week and 24 Hours Per Day  
Ockendon Recreation Ground, Cliff Place, South Ockendon, RM15 6QR***

Further to our letter of 6th January 2022, we note that this matter is before Cabinet at its next meeting on 9th February, agenda item number 14.

We again urge Cabinet to reject these proposals.

In the case of Ockendon Recreation Ground, we question if the correct venue is being tabled. Was the intention to address Grangewaters Recreational Centre instead, with 38 vehicle parking bays, just a few miles away?

At Ockendon Recreation Ground there are no pot-holes, the car park has just 26 bays and one disabled bay. The surface is hardstanding, flat and in good condition. It does not need investment. We believe that Council's Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee may have incorrectly appraised the site. Have members and officers determining this matter actually visited the venue?

We believe that to introduce car parking charging at such a small ground will cost the Council far more in implementation, regulation and administration than the income it may receive. We therefore request that Ockendon Recreation Ground is removed from the proposal. We believe this outcome will be best for all parties, which includes Thurrock Council.

We have also heard of two seemingly outrageous proposals from one Council officer to ameliorate car parking charges for sports users. The first of these includes offering a route for vehicles to use a gate to the rear of the bowls green so that free car parking can be offered on the playing field itself. This will take vehicles through a children's playground area. Has this officer lost his marbles?

The second suggestion is that the existing small car park is divided into two parts, one for chargeable car parking and the other for sports users. We consider this to be utter nonsense as existing sports users, at any given matchday, require more than half of the spaces in the car park.

Once again, we urge Council to drop chargeable parking at Ockendon Recreation Ground.

Yours sincerely  
Cliff Cansdale



Hon. General Secretary

ccansdale@hotmail.com

cc Members of Cabinet, Thurrock Council  
cc Senior Democratic Services Officer, Thurrock Council  
cc Officers and Delegates of Thurrock Sports Council