Report to LMPC on LM Sports Club for26th. February and as presented at LMPC Awayday 15th February 2020 -

4 years ago LMSC had effectively been taken over by LM & Upton FC run by Mike Fudge. Suffice it to say a lot went on until then that could be considered improper. Cricket and Red Triangle FC (adult team) had been forced out. LMPC stepped in, terminated the lease with the then LMSC and set about sorting out the mess and dealing with unpaid bills. Thanks in particular are due to Alf Bush for all he did in making the sort out happen.

Since then and with input from the new LMFC the following has been achieved. The Pavilion has been renovated to a standard that meets FA requirements for changing rooms, referee's room and for both youth and adult football to use. The facility is now in a state where more use can be made of the main hall as a meeting room and venue for various organisations.

Renovation included restoring the heating, new showers, LED lighting, new toilets, internal doors, new roof and door to the adjoining 'garage' storage space and much redecoration. This was achieved through the efforts of the new LMFC and by an effective grant from LMPC the owner of the buildings. A storage solution for goal posts was being worked on.

Since April 2018 there has been use of the football pitches by LMFC youth football who have over 300 members and train/play both at the Recreation ground, Astro and Lytchett Minster School.

Through the efforts of Dan Ricketts LM Red Triangle FC (part of LMFC) has been resurrected after 3 years of not being able to play due to pitch condition and the inadequacy of the Pavilion facilities.

The main room is let to the 3 nights a week to the Table Tennis club, keep fit (Boogie Bounce) and the Bridge Club.

LMFC runs a very successful youth tournament over a weekend in June with LMSC benefitting from both facility hire and a share of the event surplus.

The good news is that for the last 21 months income and expenditure for ongoing activities have been in balance and there is now a solid platform from which to move ahead and make better use of the facilities.

Looking to the future the intention is to separate LMSC out from LMPC and make it free standing from 1st. April this year. Until the Development Trust is in being there will be no formal constitution for LMSC or a lease to it from LMPC for the Pavilion or the Recreation ground for football or other sports. But for all intents and purposes LMSC will operate as a freestanding unit with its own bank account, profit and loss account and budgeted to breakeven or better.

It is proposed that management will be through a Management Committee comprising P. J. Webb as Chairman, Alf Bush as Treasurer and Alan Cottman as 3 representatives of LMPC together with a Secretary (currently Kevin Watson) and 2 members from LMFC, Steve Risk and Dan Ricketts. The Committee will meet every 3 months and will hold regular meetings with those organisations who hire the facilities to receive feedback and consider matters that can help user experience and future development.

The draft Budget for the year starting 1st. April indicates breakeven based on the current usage levels of the facilities. It is anticipated that LMPC will contribute financially towards the costs incurred by LMSC in in keeping parts of the Rec in good order as it is used by the whole community when no football is taking place.

There is definite scope to increase revenue from the Pavilion as only 3 nights a week are currently utilised and nothing during daytime. There is not an excess of community space in Lytchett and demand will grow as Lytchett expands. The Pavilion is ideal for smaller groups both daytime and evenings. Plans have been made to upgrade the chairs and tables and to make the existing bar area usable once again.

Coming up in September 5th./6th. will be an event to celebrate the Centenary of LM Red Triangle FC. An adult game, youth activities, Centenary booklet and Donors' board are some of the elements planned.

Accessing funding for further improvements will be helped by the setting up of the Development Trust. Grants will come from a variety of sources and it is expected that some may be from LMPC e.g. towards improving the energy efficiency of the Pavilion.

In the immediate future LMFC will be getting a grant from the Football Foundation for pitch improvement works. Over 6 years in excess of £35, 000 will be coming to pay for fertiliser, aeration, weedkilling and reseeding as per a programme devised by the FA's regional pitch adviser. This will apply to the area of all the football pitches and lead to an improvement in those areas of the Rec's surface and may one day help towards a return of cricket to Lytchett.

The Astro pitch was always part of the old Sports Club responsibilities in an agreement with the Primary School. This has and will continue with the now LMSC. It is intended to revisit the agreement and how costs are shared.

In the last few months damaged fencing has been repaired and the lights (damaged) are to be replaced with LEDs.

Investigation is taking place into the feasibility of creating an on-line booking facility for the hiring of the Pavilion and the Astro to make it easier to manage and to increase usage levels.

In the near term the past issues with LMSC have been resolved and stabilised, the Pavilion has been brought up to date and is available for wider community use, youth football is thriving, LM Red Triangle is playing again and better grass is in prospect.

In the longer term, there are ideas for revamping the Pavilion/Scout hut area, acquisition of more pitch space behind the Primary School and a complete rethink of the Astro area as the pitch surface moves towards the end of its useful life.

Pjw.