

WBCA LTD CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT – AGM 2018\2019

As always it is good to see members and invited guests here this evening, the trustees and I would like to thank you for taking the time to be present this evening.

The statement last year referred to the state of the floodlights to the astro area and that it was planned for these to be replaced during 2018 following the astro surface upgrade in 2017.

The upgrade work to the astro floodlights was completed in August 2018 to FA standards.

Floodlight upgrade works included :-

- Replacement of the old bulbs with fewer, brighter and longer lasting modern LED bulbs. (These will reduce ongoing bulb replacement and energy costs)
- Replacement of the old circuitry feeding the floodlights including complete new 'head units' to the top of the existing stanchions for mounting the new bulbs.
- The installation of a new meter so that the amount of electricity used by the floodlights can be more readily monitored and managed.
- New switching controls in the office.

The astro pitch itself has continued to be very popular and revenues have increased.

However a lot of effort has had to be made, including the extensive use of signage, to try and ensure that the correct footwear is used.

Adherence to the rules of use applies to both players and spectators to ensure the maximum period of usability is achieved from this facility.

The other expensive upgrade mentioned in the last statement for action in 2018 was the complete refurbishment of the main hall floor, as planned this was completed in February.

We are very pleased with the result which should mean a significantly extended life for this facility.

The running trail being driven by the Striders but supported by WBCA is still an on-going item. Full plans were received and detailed discussions taken with the Striders and consultations with the council.

This item is now back with Striders to obtain funding for the current proposals.

The **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** which came into force on the 25th May 2018 required the centre to comply with these with regards to membership data held.

To this end WBCA have put in place an overall management process which contains a combination of a number of processes, policy documents and forms to cover the main issues involved,

All in all it is believed that the centre is in a good position with regards complying with these regulations.

As part of working through the preparations for GDPR a review was taken of the Code of Conduct rules for members of the centre which resulted in amendments being made.

These amended rules can be seen on the reverse of the revised membership form and on the centre's web site.

The issue of site security raised its head in 2018 with the illegal trespass onto the centre's grounds and subsequent damage caused by travellers to both football and cricket areas.

These periods of illegal trespass led to temporary closures of the centre with subsequent losses of revenue, while enforcement agencies worked to remove the travellers from site under Section 61 orders.

The council spent a lot of resources and help alongside centre's staff to get the grounds back to a useable state for use by the football and cricket sections and I thank all involved for their efforts.

Following these trespasses a row of metal posts were installed by the council from the field gate, at the end of the carpark by the tennis courts, up to the corner of the building to help secure the playing areas in the future.

Additional security measures which have been approved include:-

- New height restriction barrier at the entrance to the car park
- Replacement of the Linda Gardens gate.
- Amendments to the CCTV system involving the repositioning and upgrade of some cameras.

The plant room has proved problematical at times with various small fittings such as pumps and valves needing to be replaced, Recently one of the boilers has been rebuilt to bring us closer to stability in this area.

As normal each year the trustees look to upgrade the fabric of the building and it is expected 2019 will be no different.

Although all projects are subject to funds being available the following are a selection of those hoped to be executed during 2019.

Current projects given approval by trustees are :-

- Replace small hall lighting
- Decorate small hall ceiling
- Replace the rear fire doors entry to the changing rooms and install new shutter.
- Replace the 2nd set of main front entrance doors.
- Refurbishment of main gents toilets
- Refurbishment of disabled toilets

Other future projects being considered include :-

- Replacement of the small hall floor
- Decorate small hall
- Front Office refurbishment
- Refurbish small hall toilets (both sets)
- Replace the main Hannakins farm sign

In conclusion the centre is continuing to see good levels of use with high numbers of users passing through the centre each week. The number of services, clubs and activities available to users has remained at a high level with new bookings which include:-

- 2018 Billericay Beer Festival – This went well and is already booked for 28th to 30th June 2019
- Activtots
- Spanish Classes – These occur on a number days providing a regular hire of the committee room.
- Yoga
- One Fit Mama – Fitness class for mothers while children safely play nearby

The future of the centre looks positive with a healthy financial position due to improvements carried out over recent years and those planned for 2019.