

MAPLEURHAM PAVILION AND PLAYING FIELDS – 09 MAY 2020
UPDATE FROM READING BOROUGH COUNCIL LEISURE AND RECREATION

I am pleased to report the grass can be seen emerging on the section of the playing fields seeded in the last couple of weeks. Weather permitting Agripower hope to complete the seeding of the sports turf early next week. This will be last significant piece of work to the sports turf until the grass is established over the coming weeks. The last piece of drainage work will be to cut slits into the ground and fill these with sand. This is far less disruptive than previous works and relatively quick.

The Council has been following government advice when organising works to the playing fields and the pavilion, including suspending work for a period. In a recent communication I have outlined how the Council are managing and monitoring the work to the pavilion including ongoing sound monitoring and reducing the number of people working to meet the Covid guidance. We currently have noise monitoring equipment on site and we will be publishing the results of this noise monitoring on a monthly basis along with an update on the pavilion works. The reduced workforce will slow progress and also reduce any disturbance. Once the work is complete to the shell of the building, in the coming month or so, work will move into the building containing noise further.

The Council are also working closely with Agripower and monitoring their works. Concern was raised earlier this week that Agripower had brought a heavy lorry and were working on/at Hewett Avenue. This was immediately raised with them and they were still travelling to site. They have not been engaged to undertake works to Hewett Avenue and consequently we do not believe this was Agripower. AYM, the pavilion contractor, confirmed that they did not have deliveries and that their vehicles were at the playing fields. Where concerns relating to the actions of the contractors working on the pavilion or those undertaking playing field ground works are raised, these will be investigated and acted upon accordingly.

There is specific guidance relating to noise and disturbance associated with construction works. Both the Planning Enforcement team and Environmental Protection teams have formally engaged with Kier to ensure compliance with these standards and planning conditions are adhered to. These are formal process governed by specific regulation.

In recent weeks concerns over the actions of Kier have been raised to a number of council officers. The direct management of Kier is by the Department of Education and the Council does not have the operational/contractual control of this work. Where excessive noise and disturbance or failure to follow planning conditions are identified, these need to be raised with the Planning Enforcement and Environmental Protection teams, where this is not resolved with Kier or Department for Education. This is the Council's method of controlling activity which is outside prescribed limits. The Council does not have the power to instruct Kier cease work without following due legal process.