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Eastbourne Bowls and Croquet Clubs – HW Shortt Park

Tēnā koutou katoa

We received the following enquiry from Deputy Mayor Lewis. She has been contacted by the president of the Muritai croquet club regarding the proposed idea of the bowls now joining the cluster of sports clubs on the grounds.

The response from officers follows:

*Council received a **draft proposal** from the Eastbourne Bowling Club to relocate to HW Shortt Recreation Ground in Eastbourne.*

*The basic idea is that the Eastbourne Bowling Club intends to sell its privately owned facility and proposed to fund the development of a new artificial lawn on the side of HW Shortt Park as shown below.*



*The Sportsground Asset Manager has met separately with the Eastbourne Sports and Services Club (ESSC) (of which Muritai Croquet is a member), Eastbourne Bowls Club and the Eastbourne Community Board for early feedback and potential levels of support for the proposal.*

*In all three meetings, there was a high level of interest in the proposal. He came away from the meetings clearly understanding that relocating the bowls club depends on the croquet green not being affected.*

*He has contacted a local landscape architect for some preliminary design costs and, if engaged, he assures you and the croquet club that no plans will be submitted for approval without serious ESSC input during the design process.*

*Any designs would have input from Council's Parks and Reserves, ESSC, Eastbourne Bowls and the Eastbourne Community Board. Officers and ESSC will also need to consider how we engage with the local community about redeveloping two tennis courts to form an artificial bowling green.*

*ESSC suggested that they will form a subcommittee where the thoughts and concerns of the croquet club can be addressed.*

*Final decisions about the design and altering of the existing lease between ESSC and Council will be made by the incoming Eastbourne Community Board and the relevant Council committee.*

Ngā mihi nui,

**Democratic Services Team**