

Consultation for Dog Training Area

Background

Cleobury has many dogs and owners who are keen to exercise their dogs in a safe environment. In addition, dog training benefits both dog owners and non-owners alike as it improves canine behaviour and makes non-dog owners feel safer. There is a shortage of suitable venues for professional dog trainers. Apart from one private facility, there is nowhere in Cleobury to exercise your dog off the lead or train it where the owner can be certain to have the dog contained. Some have been using the skate park which is inappropriate. A working group of concerned dog owners have met and others consulted, leading to a recommendation for a specific training and exercise area for all residents.

Format proposal

An enclosed high fenced dog training area with lockable gate located within the play park area. (See below front and reverse views of location)



- The fencing will be of the same type as around the rugby pitches to ensure visual continuity, easy maintenance and longevity.
- The fenced area will be Circa 18m x 21m of 6ft high fencing.
- The inside surface is proposed to be a mix of wood chip from our own grounds chippings and sand, as recommended by local dog trainers for pet safety and hygiene and low cost. Artificial turf is not affordable.
- Clear signage around rules would be at the entrance along with a dog waste bin just inside the door with poo bags.

- First year's cost estimated at £6,630 including maintenance.
- The area would be covered by existing CCTV camera adjusted to ensure siting by thinning out some trees.
- The area would be added to the register of weekly risk inspections.
- Maintenance would require some refreshing of the internal surface circa quarterly. Annual Maintenance Cost estimate is £1,640 which will be covered by renting out sessions for subsequent years and create a replacement fund for the future or fund the purchase of rentable dog agility equipment.

Rules of usage

The area would be available to all residents on a non-bookable basis for free 7 days a week except for the following private booking times:

- A morning and evening 2 x half hour sessions back to back, block bookable, for private use 3 days a week, one of those being a weekend day. Indicative costs would be by annual subscription of £50 for half hour sessions for the year. On a per session basis it would be £5 per half hour.
- A 1 hour session 3 days a week bookable for group training of dogs. Cost would be £15 per a one-hour session or £12 per session for 6 week block bookings.

These sessions will be bookable via the Council office or in time perhaps on-line. Notice boarding to be worked out in advance to avoid arguments about booked and non-booked slots.

Costs

Fencing and gate quotes have been obtained from more than one supplier. O approval, further quotes will be obtained to ensure best price and equivalent quality to rugby pitch fencing.

Fencing: £4,000 including installation and door / lock
Ground Covering: Woodchip – no cost (labour £200) + Sand @ £200
Dog Bin and poo bag dispenser £600
Signage and memorial signage £400

Total Cost estimate £5,400

On-going Maintenance: Sand 4 times a year @ £200 = £800
Labour cost of £200 x 4 times = £800
Poo bag replenishment @ £40 pa

Total annual maintenance cost = £1,640

Therefore first year cost = £5,400 + £1,230 (3 x replenish) = **£6,630**

Funding of the Scheme

Suggested funding model is:

Council Project Funding: £ 2,054
Income from Renting Out: £ 2,376 (pa)
One off Fundraising Memorial Plaque: £ 2,200

Total: £ 6,630

Annual Income From Renting Out assumptions - £2,376

Half hour sessions x 12 per week = capacity of 624
Assume booking at circa 30% capacity = 187 sessions used pa

- annual subscriptions @ £50 x 20 = £1,000
- individual session bookings @ £5 x 70 = £350

Dog exercise/ Training/agility sessions at 1 hour for multiple owners
Capacity is 3 hours a week x 52 weeks = 156 hours
Assume capacity at 50 % usage = 78 hours

- weekly sessions in blocks of 6 @ £12 per hour x 48 = £ 576
- Individual sessions @ £15 per hour x 30 = £450

Memorial Plaque Fundraising Scheme

Pet Memorials are becoming increasingly popular to recognise pets that have passed. Pet Charities in particular find this an excellent and productive fundraising method. There is no current facility for this in Cleobury.

The scheme to last 5 years. Funds raised to go towards initial costs and thereafter – maintenance and replacement. The scheme is closed once established and then re-opened after 5 years with a new scheme.

Corporate sponsors: up to 5 @ £300 – Budget for 2 = £600
(Name of organisation at the top + mention in press article sent to Clarion + mention on website feature)

Memorial sponsors

Gold @ £100 - name of pet + x characters Budget for 5 = £500

Silver @ £50 - name of pet * owner name Budget for 10 = £500

Bronze @ £20 - name of pet Budget for 30 = £600

(Unlikely to sell out in launch period) Total raised estimated = **£2,200**

Promotion

Notice board and Clarion article to launch

Sell/pledge via website / Facebook / poster in Vets .

Feature at Annual Town Meeting (if time) and Cleobury Festival dog show stall.

Timing

Council to review at April meeting.