

**Sevenoaks Town Council
Community Asset (Open Spaces) Committee – 5th May 2026**

Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager's Report

Knole Paddock and Raleys Field

Once again we are facing an unseasonably dry spring, with Rugby now finished we have started to try and level both fields using a chain harrow, our next task is to sow the seed into mechanically created slots around 20mm deep. This will be attempted next week, however if the machine will not cut into the ground, we are left with trying to irrigate each pitch for 3-4 days before trying again to sow the seed into softer ground. Last year having had a late sowing and poor germination we tried a second sowing in September which was successful, but I noticed that nearly all the young grass was gone after about 5 weeks of Rugby in the autumn. I am giving consideration to the idea of sowing the seed in March whilst football and rugby are still being played with the idea that it will germinate close to the end of the season, and we will retain some of it as the season finishes.

We are still hoping to hear that the Rugby Club have been successful with their application for funding, which would allow us to top dress at least 2 pitches with a soil sand mix, this would have the benefit of covering the seed. Our chosen contractor is ready to carry out this work based on the result of the grant application.

I have included the maintenance chart again, the further tasks such as fertilising are mainly dependant on the grass being sown and the weather.

Proposed New Floodlights

We have awarded the tender based on it being subject to planning approval. A planning application is being prepared, having obtained more information on the design of the columns and lights, once submitted it may be that we will have to provide more information about light spill etc as this site is adjacent to the Knole SSSI, National Landscape.

We also need to provide data to the contractor about the load bearing qualities of the soil, so we are currently talking to a specialist who can trial bore the soil to confirm it can support the columns with the proposed mass of concrete.

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Knole Paddock and Raleys Winter Sports Schedule of Planned Maintenance

Does not include regular weekly/ monthly tasks such as grass cutting, slitting, harrowing and marking out.

	Pitch 1	2	3	Football
24/25				
Reseed	April	April	April	April
Weed kill			August	August
Fertilise	September		October	October
Reseed			September	
Vertidrain	October (Bournes)	October (Bournes)	October (Bournes)	October (Bournes)
25/26				
Reseed	June	June	June	June
Fertilise	August	August		August
Weed kill	September	September	September	September
Second reseed	60%	60%		25%
Vertidrain	November	November	November	November
26/27				
Harrow Level	28/04/26	28/04/26	22/04/26	22/04/26
Overseed				
Fertilise				
Weedkill				
Top Dress				