

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CUSTOMER SERVICES, SPORT & LEISURE
CABINET MEMBER**

'FOOTGOLF'

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a proposal to develop a 'Footgolf' course at Kingsway Golf Course.
- 1.2 The key points of the report are as follows:
 - Kingsway Golf Course income and visitor numbers have fallen significantly since 2011.
 - 'Footgolf' is growing in popularity.
 - It is feasible to build a 'Footgolf' course and offer a nine hole golf course at Kingsway Golf Course.
 - We need to consult on the proposal to develop a 'Footgolf' course.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Following our commitment to retain Kingsway we need to take action to get more people using the Kingsway site. We propose to introduce 'Footgolf' at Kingsway Golf Course.
- 2.2 Footgolf is growing in popularity. There are now over 50 courses in the United Kingdom. The game is a cross between football and golf where the 'footgolfer' attempts to kick a ball around a course in the fewest possible kicks. The course is a mixture of par four and par three holes. The longest hole is around 100 yards in length. Bunkers, rough and water hazards are all part of a 'Footgolf' course. The ball used is a standard sized football. The holes are much larger to accommodate the ball.
- 2.3 Representatives from the 'Footgolf' governing body have visited Kingsway. They felt that Kingsway was an ideal location for a 'Footgolf' course.
- 2.4 We believe that it is possible to create a 'Footgolf' course alongside a nine hole golf course at Kingsway.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 - To create a 'Footgolf' course at Kingsway Golf Course alongside a nine hole golf course.
- 3.2 Option 2 – To maintain the existing eleven hole golf course.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 - To create a 'Footgolf' course at Kingsway Golf Course alongside a nine hole golf course.

- 4.1.1 We propose to build a nine hole 'Footgolf' course using three of the existing golf holes (see Appendix 1). This will require the creation of 9 tee boxes and nine greens. Our green keeping team will carry out this work. We will also need to acquire a mower to maintain the course as well as erecting protective fencing, to prevent injuries to course users, where required. The total investment is £15,000.
- 4.1.2 The golf course will become a nine hole facility utilising the remainder of the Kingsway site. This will require the green keeping team to re-route the existing course.
- 4.1.3 4.1.3 'Footgolf' will bring new customers to Kingsway. This will provide opportunities for the Golf Professional to market the golf course.

4.2 Option 2 – To maintain the existing eleven hole golf course.

- 4.2.1 If we maintain the current arrangement it is unlikely that visitor numbers will increase to 2011/12 levels. There is too much local competition in the golf market.
- 4.2.2 There remains a need to improve greens, tees and bunkers at Kingsway to give our customers a reasonable golfing experience. This will requirement an investment of around £4,000.
- 4.2.3 We have prepared a business plan that supports the development of 'Footgolf'

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 We have enough funding available to set up a Footgolf course using the remainder of the capital monies made available for tee box renovations. We estimate an initial surplus on Footgolf activities of £11,000. This represents a return on the capital invested in 18 months.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 We have not yet consulted on the proposal in this paper. We propose to ask people what they think about introducing 'Footgolf' at Kingsway Golf Course.
- 7.2 We have previously asked golfers if they would support reverting the golf course back to its original nine hole layout and reintroduce a golf practice area. Whilst the majority of golfers supported the proposal there was a significant minority against change.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 We recommend that we ask people what they think about introducing 'Footgolf' at Kingsway Golf Course.
- 8.2 We will report the findings of the public's view on the proposal and ask the Customer Services, Sport & Leisure Cabinet Member to make a decision on the introduction of 'Footgolf' at Kingsway Golf Course.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Kingsway Golf Course Development – Business Plan Draft Jan 2015

Appendix 1

Proposed Kingsway Site Layout

Key:

