

Welshpool Town Council, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DD
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Document / Report #677

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Title	STRI Report - May 2026
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1. Purpose

1. To provide Members with a summary of the independent sports turf assessment undertaken at Maes y Dre Recreation Ground by STRI Group Ltd and to seek direction regarding future maintenance priorities and investment requirements.

2. Background

1. Welshpool Town Council commissioned STRI Group Ltd, a nationally recognised sports surface consultancy, to undertake an annual inspection and appraisal of the playing surfaces and bowling greens at Maes y Dre Recreation Ground and associated facilities.
2. The site visit took place on 17th March 2026 and included inspections of all of Maes y Dre including the greens.

3. Summary of findings

1. The report concludes that, despite significant pressures from weather and high levels of usage, the playing surfaces across Maes y Dre continue to maintain generally good grass coverage and remain serviceable community sports facilities.
2. The consultant specifically recognised the efforts of the Council's grounds maintenance team, stating "The maintenance team actually do a great job holding as many grass plants as they can on this, and on all of the sites playing pitches."
3. The report also referred to "remarkable grass cover in very challenging conditions" on some areas of the site.
4. Challenges identified include:
 1. Organic matter build-up across pitches is restricting drainage and contributing to soft and slippery surfaces.
 2. Heavy usage and adverse weather have caused wear and plant loss across several pitches.
 3. The first team pitch is described as being under "severe pressure" and requiring rest and recovery time.
 4. Goalmouths and junior pitches are particularly worn.

4. Recommended Actions

1. The report identifies organic matter accumulation as one of the most significant issues across the site and recommended actions include increases scarification, aeration and top dressing.
2. The consultant recommends increasing deeper aeration works using specialist machinery such as verti-draining.
3. More regular interseeding.
4. These actions will be addressed through the End of Season Works.

5. Links to Strategic Objectives and Interim Strategic Plan

1. OS1 - Audit all play areas, pitches, open spaces and income generation.

6. Resource & Legal Implications

1. The budget for End of Season works for 2026/27 is £23,000. A process is currently underway to obtain quotations for consideration by Council.

7. Specific Implications

1. **Crime and Disorder** - N/A (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).
2. **Biodiversity** - turf management can support biodiversity objectives (Environment (Wales) Act 2016).
3. **Well-being** - N/A (Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).
4. **Risk Management** - N/A.

8. Recommendation

1. None.

9. Decision

1. To note for information only.