

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 13 MARCH, 2007 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C. Morgan, C.W.J.
Beddows, J. Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman:

Councillor M.R. Grocott, Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor A. Williams (Vice-Chairman))

30. Minutes

Councillor C.W.J. Morgan expressed concern regarding Oxford Green Football Field and the cost of the work proposed to be carried out. He had requested that the football area was levelled and fencing erected to overcome the problem of dog fouling.

It was noted that the Council had an option to install a teenshelter at a cost of £5,000 and to tarmac footpath connection from hammerhead to enter site. Councillor Morgan considered that this work was not necessary and it was not what the residents had been requesting to be done.

The Head of Culture and Major Projects explained that the Council was currently in discussions with the County Council to enter into a longer lease for the land and a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Select Committee to confirm what work could be carried out within the budget.

The Head of Culture and Major Projects agreed to meet with Councillor Morgan to help progress the matter.

Councillor C. W. J. Morgan reported that at the meeting of the Select Committee held on 11 October 2006 it had been agreed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting outlining details of the S106 Agreement for the development at the former Automotive Lighting Factory, Walkmill Lane, Bridgtown. The following meeting had been cancelled and he asked what had happened to the report.

The Head of Culture and Major Projects agreed to investigate this matter and report back accordingly.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2006 be approved as a correct record.

31. Update on Blake Valley Technology College Development Project

The Head of Culture and Major Projects informed the Select Committee that the Blake Valley Technology College (BVTC) Development Project had been agreed to be included in the 2007-08 Councils Capital Programme Budget. This was dependent upon the disposal of Cannock Sports Stadium site and relocation of the athletics track from its present location to the proposed site which was approximately 400 metres away.

A soil survey on the proposed new site had been carried out and it had been proved to be suitable for development. It was proposed to have an Athletic 8 lane track with a 10 lane straight, although confirmation was required that it would fit on site.

A Project Action Team had been established with representatives from Staffordshire County Council, BVTC and Cannock Chase Council. A meeting was to be held on 19 March 2007 to discuss the details of the Dual Use Agreement for the facilities to be used by both the school and community. Discussions would be ongoing.

A report was submitted to Cabinet on 22 February 2007 and the following phases had been agreed:-

Phase 1 An 8 lane track with 1 x 10 straight; 1 x senior grass football pitch in the centre of the track; 2 x junior grass football pitches; 1 x grandstand without undercroft; equipment store.

Phase 2 A full size artificial turf pitch; 2 x multi use games areas; resurfacing of remaining three tennis courts.

Phase 3 Create a community entrance.

Expressions of interest for a design and build contract had been received and a time table of key stages had been drawn up. It was envisaged that the contract would be awarded on 8 May, 2007 and a planning application for the site submitted shortly afterwards.

Concern was raised regarding athletic clubs or other organisations requiring all day usage of the facilities and what catering arrangements would be available. It was reported that the BVTC were being supportive and working in a flexible way and events whether regional or national would be able to take place. The Council's catering service had provided refreshments at events and the school also had a good catering service.

The issue of sub standard flood lighting being a nuisance to those in the surrounding area was also raised which would be a planning issue. It was explained that all issues which arose would be addressed and appropriate lighting would be installed.

RESOLVED:

That updates on the Blake Valley Technology College Development Project be provided to future meetings of the Select Committee.

32. Vision into Reality Consultation - Feedback

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Culture and Major Projects (Enclosure 5.1-5.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

The Strategic Projects Manager explained that the Report reflected the findings of the consultation events held in early December 2006 on the 'Vision into Reality' at which approximately 300 people attended. The Report also outlined the subject matter on which the consultation was carried out.

The responses to the questionnaires were reproduced in the Annexes to the Report. A letter from the Friends of Cannock Park Association was also included at Annex 3 with their permission.

The key issues raised on the proposed Chase Leisure Village Development were:-

- A need for increased car parking provision
- Dissatisfaction with the proposals to transfer the Civic Office to this location, particularly in view of the height of such development
- That it would be more appropriate that the new swimming pool should be 50 metres in length.

At the events, questionnaires were also available to invite comments on the following schemes also included in the leisure facility development programme, the feedback being mainly favourable:-

- New swimming pool at Rugeley
Comments received welcomed the facility as 'long overdue'
- Replacement Athletics Track and associated facilities proposed to be built at Blake Valley Technology College site
The Athletic Clubs were keen to have a 'seamless' transfer to the new proposed facilities to offer continuity to their members and to have an 8 lane athletics track
- Chase Heritage Trail
This project does not come under the portfolio of this Select Committee, the Leader for Access to Skills and Economic Development did attend the events and was updated on the public feedback.

Discussion took place on the responses to the 'Vision into Reality' events. Some Members expressed concern regarding the size of the Leisure Village proposed to be built at the Park, particularly if it included the Civic Offices and a Theatre, and that it would ruin the park. It was considered that there would be insufficient car parking spaces for those using the proposed facilities and that traffic leaving the site would cause chaos on the Stafford Road.

The Chairman explained that she had invited Mr. R. Kay from the Prince of Wales Theatre to attend the Select Committee to again provide his views, but he was not present. The view was expressed that the Theatre should be located in the town centre.

The Select Committee considered that full consultations should be carried out by the Council's Cabinet with the Charity Commissioners and CISWO, and that the legal position should be explored thoroughly before anything went ahead.

The Head of Culture and Major Projects explained that any developments at Cannock Leisure Centre would have to be considered by the Select Committee and final recommendations presented by them to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Select Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Civic Offices should not be moved to the Leisure Village.
- (B) That Cabinet be requested to consult with the Charity Commission and CISWO regarding the proposed development

CHAIRMAN