

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

5 SEPTEMBER 2006

REPORT OF HEAD OF CULTURE AND MAJOR PROJECTS

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL WITH CARDINAL GRIFFIN ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose to Members a future partnership arrangement between Cannock Chase Council (CCC) and Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School (CGRCS).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members of the Select Committee support the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School for the provision of an artificial turf pitch at the Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School.
- 2.2 That Cabinet be recommended to approve in principle the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School for the provision of an artificial turf pitch at the Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School and authorise officers to undertake the necessary work to develop the proposals.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 To further realise the "Leisure Vision" as approved by the Cabinet on 16 December 2004, minute number 79 1-9, Officers have undertaken work and looked at the possibility of relocating the artificial turf pitch (ATP), originally proposed under the Section 106 Agreement to be located alongside the Athletics Stadium, to another location in Cannock.
- 3.2 As per the Council's Policy Option (WG1) Closure of the Stadium approved on 22 February 2006, Budget 2006-07, if the sale of the land was realised for housing development, it would be necessary to identify a new location for the ATP.
- 3.3 A number of locations have been assessed to accommodate a new ATP. It was felt that due to the close proximity of the Chase Leisure Centre and Cannock Park would add volume to a 'whole' recreation experience, also a potential partnership opportunity with the local school would ensure usage in school hours is maximised. This supports the Physical Education curriculum and encourages young people to be active. The partnership would be based on locating the ATP (Section 106 funded) to the rear of CGRCS on the school's land.
- 3.4 Two meetings have taken place with the school's Head Teacher and Head of Physical Education. Both school officers have confirmed their interest in the potential partnership opportunity and are willing to seek further advice from the local diocese.
- 3.5 The agreement, in principle, needs to be considered by Members in the light of; the potential new location of the ATP, the partnership agreement for dual use facilities for the school and the

community and the possibility of using other school facilities if the Chase Leisure Village development was to be realised during the closure period.

- 3.6 Officers have written to seek outline agreement from Asda to vary the location of the ATP. A response was received on 17 August 2006 noting the support in principle to the variation to the Section 106 agreement.
- 3.7 If the recommendations as contained in this report are supported, Officers would continue to develop the details of a future partnership with CGRCS and commence discussions with the Football Foundation on potential additional funding opportunities to develop the partnership facilities further.

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Section 1**Background**

Members will be aware of the ongoing review of Leisure Management since 2004. The review has led to an approved vision for Leisure, Cabinet 16 December 2004, which reaffirmed that the provision of Leisure facilities in the District should be based as follows:

- 3 High quality provision throughout the District providing new, not "patch and mend"
Retaining and enhancing the main area of Cannock Park as public open space
Consolidating Cannock's leisure facilities where practicable on the Chase Leisure Centre site
Expanding the facilities at Rugeley Leisure Centre
Leading to better value for money, increased customer satisfaction and increased participation levels
- 4 That the officers undertake further work to establish the viability of the above.
- 5 That the officers be authorised to continue to develop the proposals of a joint use Community Swimming Pool in Rugeley with Staffordshire County Council and other potential partners.
- 6 That the progress in respect of the potential proposals for a Health Centre on the Chase Leisure Centre site be noted and that officers be authorised to explore these further with the Primary Care Trust as part of the proposals to consolidate facilities at that site.
- 7 That a site survey be commissioned to ascertain land conditions at the Stadium site and the likely capital receipt on any disposal; the cost of such a survey to be met from the Leisure Review Budget.
- 8 That the second stage of the two stage approach for the leisure review previously agreed by Cabinet on 29 July 2004, ie, the market testing exercise, be deferred pending the outcome of the work authorised in these resolutions.
- 9 That a further report detailing progress on these matters be brought to the Culture and Sport Select Committee and that in the context of the savings required as part of the Leisure Review, the Select Committee be requested to consider the detailed provision of facilities at both the Chase Leisure Centre site and the Rugeley Leisure Centre site.

Officers have been working on the viability of the vision and the clear instructions from Cabinet, which in turn has led to a number of actions directly linked to this report:

- i) Seeking approval to vary the Section 106 agreement on the original location of the ATP.
- ii) Undertaken a land appraisal survey of the Stadium land, key findings already reported to Members.
- iii) Ongoing discussions with CGRCS on a potential partnership arrangement.
- iv) Development of a playing pitch strategy for the District.
- v) Development of a Cultural strategy for the District.

- vi) Identifying the key findings from the two Year 9 surveys, Year 6 survey, 3 Citizen Panel surveys and findings of the Sport England Participation survey for the District.
- vii) Outcome of the PPG17 – Indoor Assessment Key Findings report, already reported to Members.
- viii) Outcome of the PPG17 – Outdoor Assessment Key Findings to form part of the playing pitch strategy.
- ix) New Corporate objective for the Council has been adopted: “to increase participation in cultural and sporting activities”.

Therefore in respect of the actions to date it is proposed that land is used at CGRCS to locate a new full sized ATP, to be utilised by schools and the community under a dual use agreement.

The officers at the school are seeking further advice from the diocese on the possibility of the joint venture. It is also likely that further funding from the Football Foundation (FF) would be attracted to develop the partnership further. Council officers will be meeting the FF in September 2006.

Section 2

Details of Matters to be Considered

Members are asked to consider the proposed partnership between CCC and CGRCS for the provision of an ATP. If the partnership proposals are supported, Officers would continue to develop the details for the future partnership with CGRCS and commence discussions with other organisations to maximise external funding opportunities.

Section 3

Contribution to CHASE

This potential partnership will develop an ATP facility on a school site under a dual use agreement. Therefore this will enable the facility to be utilised by local schools and the community. The funding for this facility will be met from an existing Section 106 agreement from a key development that has taken place in Cannock.

The provision of a new facility would seek to improve the participation rates of the local community utilising local facilities which is a key objective of the Council.

The programme of the new facility would include a wide range of coaching sessions to improve sporting skills and abilities and will be open to all local residents.

Section 4

Section 17 (Crime Prevention) Implications

Further development of facilities in Cannock will lead to new activities being available for young people especially. The new activities would be diversionary away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Section 5

Human Rights Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998 arising from this report.

Section 6

Data Protection Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Data Protection Act arising from this report.

Section 7

Risk Management Implications

Any partnership arrangement comes with a level of risk. However, the basis of the partnership will be detailed in a formal agreement drawn up by Legal Services.

Operational management of the site will be undertaken jointly in accordance with the formal agreement but further details will need to be discussed if the decision to proceed is taken.

Damage and vandalism to the facility is always a known risk, however the school site is extremely secure, therefore the risk is minimised. The planning application that will need to be submitted will cover all the issues in respect of site security.

If a decision was to proceed with a partnership between CCC and CGRCS a full risk analysis would be undertaken to identify all potential risks and what actions need to be taken to minimise the risks.

Section 8

Legal Implications

Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities, including outdoor pitches for team games, within the District. It may make these facilities available to such persons as it thinks fit either with or without charge,

This power enables the Council to consider dual use arrangements as mentioned in the report and to enter into an agreement with Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School for the shared use of any artificial turf pitch which may be constructed on the school land.

The proposals are in their early stages currently but a detailed agreement for the dual use and development of the facility will need to be agreed between the Council and the Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School before the proposals can be implemented.

Section 9

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. However, should a joint arrangement be agreed and the various works be carried out at the location a further report would need to address both the capital costs involved, financing and the revenue consequences of providing the joint arrangement.

Section 10

Human Resource Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of human resources arising directly from this report.

Section 11

Conclusions

That Members of the Culture and Sport Select Committee give their 'in principle' support to a partnership with CGRCS. That the ATP is located at the school, dependent on the decision to dispose of the land at the Stadium for housing development.

List of Background Papers

- PPG17 – Outdoor Assessment report by Strategic Leisure.
- PPG17 – Indoor Assessment
- Strategic Leisure Business Plan 2005-08
- CCDC Asset Management Plan
- Stadium Land Appraisal