

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER, 2006 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors            Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)  
   Williams, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.                    Morgan, C.W.J.  
Beddows, J.

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman:

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Easton and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton).

**23. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

**24. Cannock Park Gates – Update of Scheme Progress**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Acting Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Chairman reported that a letter had recently been received by some Members of the Committee from Friends of Cannock Park. The Chairman asked that the letter be circulated to all other Members of the Committee.

Mr. Tom Walsh, Parks and Open Spaces Manager reported that the gates had now been fitted at the Park Road entrance and the area to the right hand side of the new gates was to remain as pedestrian access to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Mr. Walsh explained that the area to the left hand side of the gates would be infilled with a new entrance sign which would contain information about the park, so as not to mislead members of the public that the new park gates were only installed from 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

**25. Ravenhill Tennis Court Provision – Update of Scheme Progress**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Acting Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Miss Karen Bradford, Head of Culture and Major Projects explained that the project would not be able to go ahead until a Heads of Terms Agreement between both the Parish Council and Council relating to the use and management of the tennis court was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report and work programme be noted.

**26. Local Area Agreement – Children & Young People Block**

The Head of Culture and Major Projects reported that Local Area Agreement (LAA) consisted of 4 blocks and set out the priorities local areas agreed between central government and the local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership) and other key partners at local level.

The Select Committee were advised that negotiations were taking place over the District as to how services could be offered to young people and children and that a presentation had been given to the Local Strategic Partnership which supported a number of blocks on obesity, sexual health, alcohol consumption and improved health indicators for children's care.

**27. Young Persons Chase It Activity Programme – Annual Evaluation**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Culture and Major Projects (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. Wayne Goodwin, Leisure Strategy Manager reported that the 'Chase It' programme was aimed at the Districts most disadvantaged youngsters between the ages of 5-13 and offered a variety of more socially inclusive activities.

Target groups included those at risk of offending and those with special needs, whilst the key partners included organisations such as Barnardo's and Mencap.

He reported that a meeting had been held with local children at Rugeley Leisure Centre on 27 November 2006, and it was agreed that the Artificial Turf Pitch and the use of a Coach would be made available on Monday evenings for the youngsters at a cost of 50p each.

RESOLVED:

That the impact of the 'Chase It' activity programme and the secured additional £105,000 from the Children's Fund until March 2008 be noted.

## **28. Update on Oxford Green Football Field**

Councillor C.W.J. Morgan provided a progress report and reported that a site meeting had taken place on 5 September 2006 concerning numerous problems such as dog fouling on the pitch. The land was on a 12 month lease from Staffordshire County Council to the Council.

He reported that a scheme had been put forward which included levelling the football pitch and erecting new fencing at an approximate cost of just over £24,000 but there were concerns that additional funding would not be made available.

Members of the Select Committee discussed the proposal and ideas for funding.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That if possible, the lease for the land be re-negotiated.
- (B) That the opportunity of further match funding be explored.
- (C) That consultation take place with the Residents Association regarding the proposal

## **29. Proposed Chase Leisure Village Development – Consideration of Feasibility Study Outline Design Options**

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and the Head of Culture and Major Projects (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. Paul Westwood, Strategic Projects Manager reported that Members of the Cabinet recently considered the feasibility study for the proposed leisure village and of the options provided, the preferred option was option 4B.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Richard Kay from the Prince of Wales Theatre to provide his views in relation to the re-location of the theatre and the options available.

Mr. Kay explained that a 'theatre in the round' as proposed under option 4B of the feasibility study; could bring limitations although it was flexible. He hoped that programming would be taken into account when considering a 'theatre in the round'.

He was hopeful that the many users of the Prince of Wales Theatre would make their views heard through public consultation and was of the opinion that the people of Cannock deserved a new facility as the existing one was now dated.

Mr. Kay reported that the seating capacity at the existing theatre was just over 400 seats and did not cater for large acts. He explained that there was difficulty filling the seats even by local amateur dramatic groups, therefore having a seating capacity of above 600 may not be viable and it may be difficult to compete with the likes of Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Councillor F.W.C. Allen raised concern that the community facility at Broomhill would be lost with the development of the Stadium and requested that Cabinet consider incorporating a community facility into any future development.

Members were of the opinion that at the present time, they could not express an interest in the options within the feasibility study and would defer this for future consideration.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the current position relating to the proposed leisure village development be noted.
- (B) That the outline design option preference be deferred to a future meeting of the Culture and Sport Select Committee.

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CHAIRMAN