

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 5 AUGUST, 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Dudson, A. (Chairman)
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z. (Vice-Chairman)

Buttery, M. (Substituting for Councillor Ms. S. Whitehouse)	Mitchell, Mrs. C. Preece, J. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Freeman, Miss M. Grocott, M.R.	

(Prior to the commencement of the meeting a short briefing session was held to provide members with an overview of the Policy Development Committee and the recent areas of work undertaken).

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Spicer and Miss. S. Whitehouse.

Councillor M. Buttery was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Miss. S. Whitehouse.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No further Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests.

3. Minutes

Arising from consideration of the Minutes the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader made reference to the Green Flag Award being retained for all 4 of the District's parks and Castle Ring being awarded "Green Heritage Status" this year. She requested that her thanks be passed on to the employees involved for retaining this Award for a further year.

An update was requested on whether a suitable burial site at the south of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) had been identified. Members were advised that a site had been identified. However, it was a complex matter as testing of the land was continuing. This issue was included in the service aims of the Committee and would be monitored throughout the year. Should the land prove to be suitable planning permission would be sought and subject to approval, negotiations to acquire the land

would be completed.

The Committee noted that Norton Canes Parish Council had identified a small piece of land in Norton which was suitable for burials for Norton Canes residents. The Parish Council would be applying for planning permission in the near future. It was noted that this plot of land was not suitable as a burial site for the south of the AONB as this site would need to be a good size so as to last 50/60 years.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March, 2014 be approved as a correct record.

19. Presentation from the Head of Commissioning

The Head of Commissioning explained that the presentation would provide the following:

- Update on PDP 2013-14 – Performance Outturn
- Agree PDP 2014-15 (Service Aims, Actions and Targets)
- Agree Work Programme 2014-15

With regard to the actions last year he advised that the fitness suite extension at Rugeley Leisure Centre was completed in June 2013, all four Green Flag Awards for the District's parks had been retained (July 2013), the Sensory Room at Chase Leisure Centre was opened in August 2013, Hednesford Park Tennis Courts were completed in August 2013 and the on line booking system was introduced at the Prince of Wales.

He outlined the (targets) and [actual] performance with regard to the 7 performance indicators, as follows:

1. % increase in participation in culture and leisure services and facilities (33%) [48%]
2. % increase of Chase Lifestyle concession cardholders (5%) [12.9%]
3. Level (£) of investment in culture and leisure facilities as part of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) contract (£120k) [£240k]
4. Number of volunteering hours (4,000) [4,555.5hrs]
5. Number of people volunteering (65) [90]
6. Number of apprenticeships posts created (2) [2]
7. Number of activities for those with health needs (1,300) [1,301]

He explained that the services within the Culture and Sport Policy Development Committee were as follows:

- All Culture and Leisure Services and facilities
 - Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centres
 - Prince of Wales Theatre
 - Museum of Cannock Chase
 - Community Wellbeing Teams – Arts, and Sports
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Cemeteries and burial grounds
- Tree Maintenance

- Playground maintenance and repairs

Members noted that the five Service Aims were:

- (1) To maximise opportunities for participation in culture and leisure
Actions: Hold Monthly Contract Meetings, produce quarterly Performance Indicator reports and provide activities for targeted groups
- (2) To provide accessible culture and leisure services and facilities
Action: To provide concessionary scheme and increase use of scheme by 1%
- (3) To encourage Investment in sporting and cultural facilities
Actions: To progress the funding and development of the Stadium Site and Artificial Grass Pitch in Hednesford
To continue to progress and develop the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Hednesford Park Project
To complete the development of the Mining Gallery at the Museum
- (4) To develop provision of burial space within the District
Actions: To commence and complete the extension works at Stile Cop
To identify a suitable site south of the AONB, submit a planning application and secure the site
- (5) To maintain the quality of managed parks provision
Actions: To implement Parks Management Plans and undergo inspections and assessment

The Officer then outlined the seven Indicators and targets for this year:-

1. Number of Default Notices issued (Nil)
2. Level (£) of investment in culture and leisure facilities as part of WLCT contract (£Nil)
3. Number of attendances at targeted activities – Health Needs (8,000)
4. Number of attendances at targeted activities – Over 60's (1,000)
5. Number of attendances at targeted activities – Under 18's (20,000)
6. % increase in participation in culture and leisure services and facilities (1%)
7. % increase in concessionary members (1%)

Members asked that in future reports actual numbers be provided for the increase in participation in culture and leisure services and facilities as well as the percentage targets.

Members were then shown plans of the proposals for the development of a Community Sport and Recreation Hub at the former Stadium site and reference was made to the Cabinet report from 17 July, 2014 attached to the agenda (Item No. 4.1 - 4.10). The report outlined that a phased approach had been approved and that the facility mix had been agreed following consultation with stakeholders and residents.

He made reference to the master plan which outlined the facilities that would be provided on site, as follows:-

- Walking/cycle trails
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Dog walking area and pathways (to be illuminated)

- 3 x football pitches and junior pitches to address demand
- Adventure play area
- Space for a full size Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP)
- Mountain bike trail
- Small BMX/skateboard area
- Outdoor agility gym and community building housing changing rooms
- Allotments
- Car parking
- Multi Use Games Area
- 2 x play areas

A Member sought confirmation on whether any athletics facilities were to be provided. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the consultation undertaken did not support the provision of athletics facilities on the site. Additionally it had been agreed that the site was to be made available for community use and not for specialist use. The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader commented that the Athletics Club that previously used Cannock Stadium were now settled at a site in Stafford.

The Officer then outlined the elements of work that would be undertaken in Phase 1 and Phase 2 as detailed in the report. Members noted that the Huntington Terrace Road entrance would be opened up to make the site more accessible. The Pye Green Road access would provide the only vehicular access.

The Committee noted that planning permission would be sought later this year. A Member considered that those Members who were on the Planning Control Committee and part of the Liberal/Tory Alliance that closed the Stadium would have a conflict of Interest when the application for the Community Sport and Recreation Hub was considered by the Planning Control Committee.

The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader commented that a new plan was proposed for the former Stadium site which was different to what was previously provided when the decision had been made to close it. Each individual member would make a decision on whether they had a Conflict of Interest at the appropriate time.

A Member suggested that the former Stadium site should be given a new name and the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader advised that she would consult with the Leader regarding this matter.

The Head of Commissioning then referred Members to the five service aims. With regard to the service aim to develop an Artificial Grass Pitch in Hednesford he confirmed that the West Cannock 5 site on Bradbury Lane, Hednesford had been identified as the site and the planning application had been submitted. This was on target for completion in Quarter 2. If the planning application was successful the site would be purchased later in the year. The Officer confirmed that changing rooms and a junior pitch had been included in the designs in addition to the full size Artificial Grass Pitch.

With regard to cemetery provision he commented that the extension works to Stile Cop cemetery had been approved and it was anticipated that work would commence at the end of the year/early next year. The Committee noted that a potentially suitable burial site south of the AONB had been identified. Subject to the site being suitable a planning application would be submitted and, if planning permission was obtained, the

site would hopefully be acquired.

The Committee noted that an update on these five service aims would be brought to the Committee each quarter.

The Head of Commissioning then referred Members to the Work Programme for 2014-15 advising that during the 2014-15 Municipal year the Committee would monitor progress against the following key service aims:-

- WLCT Contract
- Stadium Project
- Hednesford Artificial Grass Pitch Project
- Hednesford Park Project (Heritage Lottery Fund)
- Burial Space Review

The Chairman asked that in future reports any abbreviations be outlined in full.

A Member asked whether there was an officer who dealt with the promotion of sporting events in the district. The Head of Commissioning advised that there was no dedicated resource to deal with this; however, Paul Smith, Sports Development Manager and Lisa Sheppard, Arts Development Officer from Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust would have an input in this as part of their roles.

The Head of Commissioning further advised that the District Council was working with Staffordshire County Council in respect of the triathlon which would be cutting through part of the Chase area.

Councillor Preece made reference to the Chasewater Liaison/Working Group and sought confirmation as to whether the District Council had been offered the opportunity to appoint a representative on this Group. Members noted that Norton Canes Parish Council had been asked to appoint a representative and it was considered that Councillor Preece would be the ideal representative for the District Council. It was agreed that Councillor Preece would look into this matter further.

Members noted that future meetings were to be held on 16 October, 2014, 21 January, 2015 and 18 March, 2015 and discussed the possibility of holding these meetings at various venues across the District. Suggestions included Etching Hill Tennis Club, Deavall Ranger Station, Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centres and Prince of Wales Theatre.

It was agreed that the Head of Commissioning arrange the venues for the meetings with the meeting on 16 October, 2014 being held at Etching Hill Tennis Club if possible. Councillor Grocott confirmed that he would be able to arrange for the meeting room at Etching Hill Tennis Club to be used free of charge.

The Committee asked that their thanks be passed on to the staff involved for the hard work undertaken last year.

The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader asked that consideration be given to including "Any Other Business" on the agenda for future meetings. The Chairman considered that adding this to the agendas would prolong meetings. Officers would not have had time to prepare an answer and the matters raised would roll over to the next meeting for

a response. The Head of Commissioning advised that it was not normal practice to include "Any Other Business" on any of the Policy Development Committee agendas. He reminded Members that they had the opportunity now to include any items on the Work Programme as it was being considered at the meeting. The Chairman asked again if Members were happy with the Work Programme as set out and whether they wished to add any other items. No other items were put forward.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Head of Commissioning would email Committee Members a month prior to the Committee meetings to ascertain whether any Member wished to add any items to the forthcoming agenda. There would be a closing date for any items to be received.

AGREED:

- (A) That the presentation be noted.
- (B) That Councillor Preece investigates whether the District Council have been offered the opportunity of appointing a representative on the Chasewater Liaison/Working Group.
- (C) That the Head of Commissioning arrange the venues for the remaining meetings with the meeting on 16 October, 2014 being held at Etching Hill Tennis Club if possible.
- (D) That the Head of Commissioning email Committee Members a month prior to the Committee meetings to ascertain if any Member wished to add any items to the forthcoming agenda.

The meeting closed at 5.10pm.

CHAIRMAN