

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs D. J. (Chairman)
Jones, R. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.	Grocott, M.R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Mitchell, C.
Green, M.R.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.

1. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton.

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

There were no Declarations of Interests.

3. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Sport and Services for Children and Young People Policy Development Committee held on 16 March 2010 be approved as a correct record.

4. Role and Remit of the Culture and Sport Policy Development Committee

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference which had been approved at Council on 30 June 2010.

5. Culture and Sport Priority Delivery Plan

Mike Edmonds, Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects explained that the Priority Delivery Plan for 2010/11 had not yet been approved by Council. He also pointed out that the current plan contained a number of actions that were likely to be affected and changed as a result of the recent budget announcements in respect of local government and the public sector. He intended to give Members a presentation summarising the key priorities within the Culture and Sport Priority Delivery Plan but again reminded Members that some of the original actions contained within the Plan may not now be deliverable due to the recent budget announcements.

Members then received the presentation. The Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects explained

that the Culture and Leisure Services Portfolio included:

- Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centres
- Cannock Park Golf Course
- Prince of Wales Theatre
- Museum of Cannock Chase
- Community and Well-Being Team (Primarily Arts and Sports development)

It was explained that the former name of “Arts and Sports development” did not convey or accurately reflect all of the work undertaken by the teams within the community. The team comprises arts, sports, recreation, play and museum service, all of which have a direct impact upon community wellbeing (e.g. physical and mental health projects, formal and informal education, recreation, sports and physical activity etc). It had therefore been decided to change the name to the Community Wellbeing Team following discussions with partners and teams. Members confirmed that they had no objection to this amendment.

Members were informed that the Quarter 4 performance report would likely to be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee. Additionally the Scrutiny Committee on 12 July 2010 would be receiving the Annual Performance Report 2009/10. The key achievements during 2009-10 were then outlined as follows:-

- 88% (60) of the keys action were rated green, 2 were red and 5 were amber
- The Evidence base strategy work with Sport England had been completed
- Free swimming had been introduced successfully on 1 April 2009 – over 78,000 free swims, 12,500 individuals
- Chase-It Programme – over 4,000 children participate each year
- Route to Health
- Quest Assessment – Sports Development had achieved a score of 90% following their latest assessment(Excellent – Highest in Staffordshire)
- Good Life sited as best practice by the IDEA in 2009

He stated that the two red actions related to the development of netball coaching programmes, which had been delayed because of partners being unable to meet the initial target dates. He then outlined the five amber actions which were all project related. Oxford Green was rated amber as there was an issue regarding the lease from the County Council. The County Council would not allow access to the land until the issue with the lease had been resolved. Work on the Elmore Park project was carried out prior to the assessment for the Green Flag inspection in May. The Heath Hayes Park project was delayed due to drainage problems. Work had been carried out during the recent spell of dry weather. The Arthur Street play area project was currently in progress with a completion target for the end of July. The final amber rated action related to the artificial pitch at Cardinal Griffin. There was still a significant funding shortfall for this project and opportunities to explore a possible funding bid with the Football Foundation were currently being pursued. Additionally Cardinal Griffin School were proposing to submit an Outline Planning Application to support any future Football Foundation bid. He confirmed that this issue would be included in the Priority Delivery Plan (once approved) and therefore an update on the process would be contained in the performance reports and submitted to each meeting of the Committee.

Members raised concern regarding the number of Canada geese that were in Elmore Park. They had a tendency to be aggressive and there was concern for the safety of children using the Park and to the amount of mess the birds left behind. The Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects explained that there was a Management Plan for Elmore Park and that he would raise this matter with

Tom Walsh, the Parks and Open Spaces Manager and ask him to respond the Members of the Committee by email.

The Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects then advised Members of the actions contained within the Priority Delivery Plan. He reiterated that Members should be aware that these actions had not been approved by Council and were subject to change due to the budget position.

Priority Outcome 1: To increase participation in sport and physical activity

- Free Swimming Initiative withdrawn after 31 July 2010
- Provision of modern leisure facilities – remodel Chase Leisure Centre
 - 2010-11 Procure a Design and Build contractor
 - 2011-12 commence construction/re-development
 - Outcome of Sport England bid still unknown

The Chairman expressed her disappointment that the Government had decided to stop the free swimming initiative for the 6-16 year olds and the over 60's on 31 July 2010. This had been well participated and she considered that it should continue until the end of the school summer holidays. The Culture and Sport Leader stated that Officers were looking at the possibility of obtaining funding to enable the free swimming to continue until the beginning of September. He commented that the free swim initiative opened an invitation to everyone not just those from deprived areas. It was not possible to establish where participants lived and whether they would have gone swimming if it had not been free of charge. He confirmed that free swimming would remain open to the under 5's and the "Chase Card" gave concessions to various residents in the District. The Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects commented that although Officers were working with partners to obtain funding it would be difficult to do this given the timescale.

With regard to the Chase Leisure Centre improvements Members were advised that the European procurement process to select a design and build contractor had commenced and it was anticipated that the appointment of the contractor would be made around October/November 2010. It was anticipated that construction on site would commence in January 2011 for a 12 month period whereby it would be necessary to close the pool. The construction of the new fitness suite was proposed to be completed around July 2011. The outcome of the Sport England bid for £500,000 funding was still awaited but the majority of the project (excluding the boom and moveable floor) could still be delivered irrespective of this funding.

Priority Outcome 2: To increase participation in cultural activities

- Continue to implement Play Strategy
 - Bevan Lee Playbuilder bid – to be completed by March 2011
 - Hold National Play Day – Hagley Park 7 August 2011
- Parks Developments - Sandy Lane, Elmore Park, Arthur Street and Oxford Green

A Member asked for an update on the position regarding the review of the Prince of Wales. The Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects confirmed that the outcome of the Scrutiny review of the Prince of Wales Theatre was being submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 12 July 2010.

The Chairman expressed concern regarding the lack of progress with the Oxford Green project and asked whether Officers had applied pressure on the County Council regarding the issue with lease. The Officer stated that the County Council were not keen for the site to be accessed until the issue

with the lease was resolved. He confirmed that Officers would continue to pressure the County Council regarding this matter.

Priority Outcome 3: To continue to demonstrate value for money by making better use of resources

- Secure Private Sector Partner/Charitable Trust to deliver Culture and Leisure Services – commence procurement 2010-11

The Committee was advised that the action to procure a partner to deliver Culture and Leisure Services was in order to secure financial savings. There was a target completion date of April 2012 but on looking at the various procurement options it may be that this process could be brought forward.

Members sought clarification as to whether they would be involved in the process of securing a Private Sector Partner/Charitable Trust. The Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects reported that to date only one formal Project Team meeting had been held and no discussions had taken place with regard to Member involvement at this stage. A report confirming the intention to select a partner to deliver Culture and Leisure Services was due to be submitted to Cabinet on 22 July 2010.

Members considered that it was essential that they be involved in this process and were concerned that the Policy Development Committee only met on four occasions during the year. The Chairman explained that she could call additional meetings of the Committee in exceptional circumstances subject to this being agreed by the Chief Executive.

The Head of Culture, Leisure and Major Projects advised that there was no reason why Members could not be involved in the process. The project team had only met on one occasion and there was no clear timetable available. The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader suggested that once the specification had been drawn up it should be brought to this the Committee. The Head of Culture Leisure and Major Projects explained that Members would be kept informed of the progress with this process during the key stages but it may be necessary to call additional meetings depending on the timescale. He would liaise with the Chairman and Culture and Sport Leader in between meetings during key times of the project to establish the need to call an additional meeting.

Members considered that the process of securing a Private Sector Partner/Charitable Trust should be placed on the agenda for all future meetings of the Committee. The Officer confirmed that this issue would be included in the Priority Delivery Plan (once approved) and therefore an update on the process would be contained in the performance reports and submitted to each meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

CHAIRMAN