

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 25 MARCH, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Dudson, A. (Chairman)
Grocott, M. R. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Mitchell, C.

17. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.W.J. Morgan (Vice-Chairman), B. Bottomer and J. Johnson.

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

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

19. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January, 2013 be approved as a correct record.

20. Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) – Quarter 2 Performance Review

The Head of Commissioning referred Members to the report which had been considered at Cabinet on 31 January, 2013 that was enclosed with the agenda. He explained that although it was early days with regards to the 10 year contract, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust had generally performed well during quarter 2. Members noted that performance at Chase Leisure Centre had been affected by the delay in the opening of the swimming pool. In addition, the bad weather had impacted upon the performance with regards to the Golf Course.

He referred to the 67 performance indicators and measures and explained that 45 had been met or exceeded the target and 22 had missed target. Of the 22 indicators that were below the expected target, 13 were considered as “red”. All of the “red” indicators related to levels of attendance and participation. He confirmed that generally the Council would work with WLCT to review contract performance and address any areas that were not on target.

He made reference to the significant financial investment in facilities by WLCT. In particular, he commented on the extension to the fitness suite at Rugeley Leisure Centre which was progressing well.

Councillor Grocott commented that there were signs of improvement at the Golf Course with more members joining. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the junior golf development programme had been delayed as a result of the later than intended contract start date. However, he advised that various promotional activities were being explored by WLCT to increase usage; these included linking the membership of Chase Leisure Centre with the Golf Club for an extra £10 per month.

Councillor Grocott considered that the Council had made a wise decision in choosing WLCT as the partner for the management contract to deliver culture and leisure services and was pleased that money was being invested into improving the facilities.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the Chase Leisure Centre swimming pool had opened on 8 March, 2013 with 4,000 casual swims being recorded and 19 schools having signed up for school use.

Councillor Mitchell, the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader commented that extra pressure had been placed on Rugeley Leisure Centre during the closure of Chase Leisure Centre and staff had handled this well. She asked that thanks be passed on to the members of staff involved at both centres for their hard work during this time.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Quarter 2 performance review of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust be noted.
- (B) That thanks be passed on to the staff for their hard work during the project to redevelop Chase Leisure Centre.

21. Presentation – Projects Update (Quarter 3)

The Head of Commissioning provided Members with a presentation which gave a Quarter 3 update on the Chase Leisure Centre Modernisation Scheme and the Culture and Leisure Management Contract.

He explained the Chase Leisure Centre modernisation scheme had been completed and handed over to WCLT on 28 February, 2013. The swimming pool had been opened to the public on 8 March, 2013 with 4,000 casual swims being recorded since the opening date. Educational use had commenced on 11 March, 2013 and swimming lessons on 18 March, 2013 (with 500 signing up for lessons). Overall, the pool had proved very popular and had been well received by the public.

He advised that the Culture and Leisure Management Contract he had been considered under the previous agenda item (WLCT - Quarter 3 Performance).

The Head of Commissioning then outlined a list of achievements during 2013/14, as follows:

- Bevan Lee Play Area – opened March 2012

- Community Games – March 2012 culminated with Party in the Park on 19 August
- Chase Leisure Centre contract with WLCT commenced 1 April, 2013
- Fitness suite at Rugeley Leisure Centre – commenced 7 January, 2013, due to be completed May/June 2013
- Museum of Cannock Chase – new windows and rendering replaced (started November 2012, due to be completed March/April, 2013)
- ATP carpet at Rugeley replaced 9 July, 2012
- ATP Cardinal Griffin Catholic School completed June, 2012, opening Ceremony in July and fully opened to the community on 16 September, 2012
- Paralympics Flame Celebration held on 25 August, 2012
- Consultation on Stadium October – November 2012
- Chase Leisure Centre – Fitness suite opened February 2012, Pools completed and handed over on 28 February 2013

The Chairman congratulated all involved for the achievements during 2013/14 which had been outlined by the Head of Commissioning.

Councillor Grocott commented that the ATP at Cardinal Griffin School and the completion of the Chase Leisure Centre swimming pool had taken a while to achieve but he was pleased that they were both now open and being used. He asked whether the building work had impacted upon the usage of the Museum of Cannock Chase. The Head of Commissioning commented that this may have had an impact on usage. However, the recession may have been more to blame as educational visits had been down. In addition, there had been an issue with linking the Cannock Chase Council's website to WLCT's website and, as a result, this would have most likely impacted upon the number of recorded visits. He was hopeful that the improvements to the Museum would increase usage and confirmed that there were proposals to open a Mining Gallery next year.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the projects be noted.

21. Implications of Bye-Laws on Council owned parks

Tom Walsh, the Parks and Open Spaces Manger, provided the Committee with a presentation that explained Bye-Laws on Council owned land. Mmembers noted that the Head of Environmental Services had requested that this item be placed on the agenda for Members information.

He explained that a Bye-Law was a law that operated within the area of the authority having been made by the authority under a power conferred by Statute and confirmed by the Secretary of State under enabling powers.

Following the presentation Members discussed the implications of Bye-Laws on Council owned parks. The Parks and Open Spaces Manager confirmed that Local Management Rules were in place and these were used to control issues by using existing legislation and effective enforcement, for example dog fouling and littering. Appropriate signage had to be erected to advise that a Management Rule was in place.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the implications of Bye-Laws on Council owned land be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN