

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 14 JANUARY, 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Dudson, A. (Chairman)

Cartwright, Mrs. S.M. Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Grocott, M.R.

Also in attendance to observe - Michaela Kerr (Board of Trustees WLCT)

11. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss M. Freeman (Vice-Chairman), D.N. Davies, J. Johnson, C.W.J. Morgan and Mrs. H. Sutton.

Councillor P. Snape was due to be in attendance as substitute for Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton; however, he submitted his apologies for the meeting.

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

The following Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests:

Member	Interest	Type
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Projects Update – Member of Cannock Chase Football League	Personal

13. Minutes

RESOLVED:

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

A Councillor asked whether more detailed information could be included on the agenda explaining the agenda items. The Head of Commissioning advised that the agenda for the meeting included a presentation on the proposed mining gallery and the usual update on performance. However, he could provide more detail on the agenda in future.

The Chairman explained that after each presentation there would be an opportunity for

Members to ask questions.

14. Presentation from Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) on the proposed new mining gallery

Peter Gascoigne, Executive Director of Culture (WLCT), gave a presentation outlining the proposed new mining gallery.

He reminded the Committee that as part of the contract WLCT had agreed to refurbish the coal mining gallery and invest £60,000. Since late 2011 work had been underway to obtain further investment and a grant of £97,000 had been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Further small grants had also been secured and, in total, the budget was approximately £165,000 - £170,000. It was anticipated that the new gallery would be completed and open Easter 2014.

He then showed Members images of the proposed areas within the gallery to give them an idea of what would be included. He explained that the old gallery had a mine and it was intended that the new gallery would also include a mine. This would be an exciting environment that could be enjoyed particularly by children.

The gallery would also include features on:

- What is coal?
- Coal in Cannock Chase
- The history of mining
- Mine Training
- Who worked in the pits?
- Day in the life of a miner
- Mines Rescue
- End of an era (mines closures)

Additionally, the gallery would include interactive features with touch screens, a winding gear interactive feature, a full size model of a miner from the 1970's and a cage giving access to the mine itself with a crawling tunnel.

At the end of the exhibition there would be a section on "Mining Community Life" which would show exhibits in a case. These exhibits would be changed on a regular basis.

Throughout the gallery on various boards there would be images of a canary and pit ponies. The canary would impart child friendly facts about the exhibition.

It was intended to open Easter 2014 with an official opening later in the year. The cast and band from the stage play "Brassed Off" which was coming to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in April had agreed to attend the Museum.

Members of the Committee were then offered the opportunity to ask questions. A Member asked if there was an age limit for entrance to the gallery. It was confirmed that there would be no age limit and the gallery was being developed with all ages in mind. The interactive features which would be located around the exhibition to entertain the children would be robust and hard wearing.

A Member asked if the rights to show the photographs had been obtained. Susan

Dalloe, Museum Services Manager (WLCT) confirmed that any rights had been cleared before they had been submitted to the designers. Two short term project officers had been employed who had been working on this issue. Peter Gascoigne confirmed that there would also be a disclaimer at the end.

Susan Dalloe also advised Members that a Community Steering Group had been established which included a representative from a Young Carers Group. This representative had suggested that the gallery should be tested with groups of children prior to it going live.

She also informed the Committee that funding would be sought to give the Victorian Cottage a facelift once the gallery had opened.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation.

15. Update from the Head of Commissioning covering Priority Delivery Plan Action and Projects Update (Quarter 3)

The Head of Commissioning explained that the presentation would provide a Quarter 3 update on the key service actions that were linked to the seven service aims.

- **Review Managed Parks Provision**

Members were advised that no actions were due until Quarter 4. All 4 parks had retained the Green Flag Award. The Hednesford Park Project was progressing well and works on the new tennis courts had been completed in August 2013. With regard to the proposed improvements to the Pavilion it was explained that additional resources had been recruited to support the project and the planning application for the project had been approved in October 2013. He confirmed that the closing date for quotes to Architects was 15 January, 2014.

- **Review Burial Space within the District**

No actions were due until Quarter 4. Cabinet on 25 July 2013 had approved permission to spend £295k on extending Stile Cop Cemetery. The Planning application was submitted October 2013 and approved December 2013. It was confirmed that the extension would provide an additional 1000 plots.

A Member sought advice on whether a suitable Cemetery site this side of the Chase had been identified. The Head of Commissioning explained that a site had been identified, layout plans were being prepared and liaison with the Environment Agency was key before the next steps could be taken.

It was anticipated that the additional 1000 plots at Stile Cop Cemetery would extend the Cemetery for approximately 7 – 10 years. Members noted that the location of a new cemetery site was a Quarter 4 action for this Committee and would therefore be monitored accordingly.

- **Manage and monitor the delivery of the culture and leisure services contract**

Members noted that 9 monthly meetings had been held with WLCT between

April – December. Quarter 1 performance report had been submitted to Cabinet on 19 September 2013 and Quarter 1 and 2 performance had been considered by the Culture and Sport PDC on 15 October 2013.

The annual target of 33% to increase participation in culture and leisure services and facilities had been exceeded as participation levels had exceeded the targets set for the first 3 quarters and to date were 48.4% above the levels achieved for the same period last year. Over 594,000 people had participated so far this year. A Member raised the issue discussed at the last meeting regarding whether the 33% target was ongoing. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the 33% target was for this year only. This was initially raised at the Scrutiny Committee on 9 October 2013 where Members noted that the target of 33% was not sustainable and would be set at a lower level for other years. Work was underway to set the targets for next year and he confirmed that an achievable target would be set and that there was likely to be a 1% increase. As part of the ongoing performance process targets for 2014-15 would be agreed with WLCT and considered by Cabinet before being finalised.

- **To provide accessible leisure and culture facilities**

A Leisure Concessionary Scheme was provided as part of the Contract with WLCT and the target of 5% increase in Chase Lifestyle concession cardholders has been exceeded in the first 3 quarters of this year with a year to date position showing a 14% increase.

- **To encourage investment in sporting and cultural facilities**

With regard to the feasibility studies on the former Stadium site Members noted that work started in August as planned and the interim feasibility findings were reported to Cabinet in October 2013. The costed design options were on schedule to be completed during Quarter 4.

Members also noted the investment in the Mining Gallery which they had received a presentation on earlier in the meeting.

WLCT were continuing their commitment to investing in culture and leisure facilities within the district. WLCT invested £68k in Quarter 1 and a further £97k has been secured from HLF.

A Member made reference to the improvements made to Rugeley Leisure Centre, in particular, the new Artificial turf carpet and the extension to the fitness suite. It was considered that awarding WLCT the contract was a good decision.

- **To contribute to the creation of new volunteering and employment opportunities**

WLCT were committed to developing volunteering and two apprentices have been appointed. Both live in the district and commenced their appointment at Chase Leisure Centre with the Community Wellbeing-Sports Team on 30 September 2013. The number of volunteering hours reported by WLCT during Quarter 3 (1,087.50 hrs) was marginally below the quarterly target (1,100 hrs) but the year to date achievement (3239.50 hrs) was above target (3,115 hrs) and

on track to achieve the annual target.

WLCT have reported that they are on track to achieve the number of people volunteering target (Annual – 65) by the end of the year and this was supported by the over achievement on the volunteering hours. Additionally, the annual target relating to apprenticeships created had been achieved as 2 apprentices started their appointment on 30 September 2013.

A Member made reference to the targets set for the amount of volunteering hours (which was slightly below target) and considered that this would be offset by the number of people volunteering. He commented that those who were volunteering would find it beneficial for their futures.

- **To provide a range of health activities and initiatives throughout culture and leisure facilities and services**

Members noted that the number of activities held in Quarter 3 (293) was above the target of 262. Similarly the year to date achievement of 1,008 activities was above target of 912 and on track to achieve the annual target.

The Head of Commissioning advised that there were a considerable number of indicators and measures with regard to the monitoring of the contract with WLCT and these are all included in the formal performance reports to Cabinet and this Committee.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his presentation and commented that things were looking positive for the forthcoming year.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.05pm.

CHAIRMAN