

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER, 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.
AT THE ETCHING HILL TENNIS CLUB, EAST BUTTS ROAD,
ETCHING HILL, RUGELEY

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Dudson, A. (Chairman)

Grocott, M.R.
Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Preece, J.

Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Whitehouse, Miss S.

20. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. P.Z. Stretton (Vice-Chairman), Miss M. Freeman and Mrs. A. Spicer.

21. 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.

22. Minutes

With regard to Minute No. 19 Councillor Preece confirmed that he had attempted to the make contact with Chasewater Liaison/Working Group without success. He would continue to keep trying.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August, 2014 be approved as a correct record.

23. Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) – Quarter 1 Performance Report

The Head of Commissioning explained that the Cabinet Report from the meeting on 18 September, 2014 had been attached to the agenda for Members' information (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.11). The report outlined the performance of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) in providing Culture and Leisure Services on behalf of the Council for the period 1 April, 2014 to 30 June, 2014. The key highlights during this quarter were outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

AGREED:

That the performance of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust for the period 1 April, 2014 to 30 June 2014 be noted.

24. Quarter 1 Performance Report

The Head of Commissioning explained that the Scrutiny Report from the meeting on 6 October, 2014 had been attached to the agenda for Members' consideration (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.4). This outlined the performance with regard to the actions of this Committee for the first quarter. It was noted that the majority of actions had been achieved.

He made reference to the action in relation to Stile Cop Cemetery, the target for which had not been achieved in this quarter and the reasons for this were outlined. He confirmed that the specification had been issued and the tender opening was scheduled for next week. The tenders would be evaluated and a contractor appointed during Quarter 3. It was anticipated that work would commence in Quarter 4, weather permitting.

He also referred Members to the action in relation to the provision of an additional burial space south of the AONB. It was explained that this target had not been achieved in this quarter as there was a delay in submitting the planning application as a result of continued testing of the site. The revised timetable was outlined; planning application submitted towards the end of Quarter 3 and planning consent to be sought during Quarter 4. Following this the site would be purchased (subject to obtaining planning consent) during 2015-16.

A Councillor commented that he hoped Cabinet would secure the site to extend the burial land in Cannock as it had been difficult over the last four years to find a suitable location.

AGREED:

That the Quarter 1 performance information be noted.

25. Projects Update – Quarter 2 - presentation

The Head of Commissioning provided Members with a presentation which gave an update on projects for Quarter 2. Members noted that the five services aims were:

- To maximise opportunities for participation in culture and leisure
- To provide accessible culture and leisure services and facilities
- To encourage investment in our sporting and cultural facilities
- To develop provision of burial space within the district
- To maintain quality of managed parks provision

The performance with regard to these service aims was then outlined:-

To maximise opportunities for participation in culture and leisure

With regard to managing and monitoring the delivery of the culture and leisure services contract it was noted that three monthly contract meetings had been held this quarter as scheduled. The monthly performance updates have been provided at contract meetings and Q1 was reported to Cabinet on 18 September. Additionally, it was noted

that activities targeted at (i) those with health needs, (ii) older people and (iii) young people should be provided.

In relation to measuring performance the Officer confirmed that no Default Notices had been issued. With regard to the level of investment in facilities and services, although WLCT were not required to invest any money this year, they had invested £60k in new equipment at Chase Leisure Centre. This was in addition to what was provided in the last 2/3 years and in response to the new Pure Gym in Hednesford.

The number of attendances to activities during Quarter 2 were as follows:-

- (i) Those with health needs – 2,290 against a target of 2,000
- (ii) Older people – 1,071 against a target of 500
- (iii) Young people – 9,757 against a target of 8,000

With regard to achieving a 1% increase in annual attendances at all culture and leisure facilities and services it was confirmed that this was currently at 5.5% (1% = 8,397 attendances).

Members considered that it would not be possible to continue to achieve a 1% increase in attendances each year. The Head of Commissioning commented that discussions are held each year with WLCT regarding performance targets and that WLCT would advise if they considered that the 1% increase was unachievable. WLCT would need to encourage people to become more active and highlighting the health benefits would encourage people to attend. WLCT also have a focus on trying to reach the inactive groups.

Members discussed the link with GP referrals and noted that WLCT had attended a Clinical Commissioning Group meeting to raise awareness and advise GP's of what WLCT had to offer. A new role was being developed within WLCT to improve this area.

To provide accessible culture and leisure services and facilities

- 1% increase in concessionary card members (1% = 60 members)

To encourage investment in our sporting and cultural facilities

- To explore and establish funding resource to support capital development of a community sport and recreation hub at the former stadium site
- Cabinet have received and approved a report on 18 September setting out the capital and revenue funding for Phase 1 of the Master Plan
- Planning application has been submitted

To develop proposals for 2nd full size Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) in the district (Hednesford)

- To explore and establish funding resource to support capital development
- An initial enquiry to Sport England Improvement Fund has been submitted in Quarter 2 and the Council have been invited to submit an Expression of Interest in Quarter 3
- Planning application has been submitted

To continue to develop Hednesford Park – Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Project

- Pavilion – Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) received and currently being evaluated
- Hard surface works – tenders evaluated, preferred contractors selected and approval received from HLF to proceed to contract. 18-20 weeks contract to start 20 October (car park closed for 6-8 weeks)
- Play areas – tenders received (5) and being evaluated. All companies presented to local schools as part of the tender process
- War Memorial – At PQQ stage
- Skate park – PQQ evaluated (3). Next stage - tender

With regard to the car park being closed for 6-8 weeks Members noted that the football clubs/league had been notified. Members had concern that closing the car park may have implications on roads close by (such as Valley Road). Vehicles may park on these roads and Members considered that local residents should be notified of the possible temporary disruption. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that notification of the car park closure had been placed in the local papers and on the website. It was possible that the teams may have to move to another pitch during the closure period. However, he would advise the Parks and Open Spaces Manager of the concerns raised and the situation would be monitored and managed appropriately if there were any issues during this period.

To develop and open new mining gallery – complete

To develop provision of burial space within the district

- To develop Stile Cop Cemetery
- Q2 Specifications issued and tenders due for return in Q3 (27 October)
- To progress the provision of additional burial space south of AONB
- No actions for Q2 (revised timetable agreed by Cabinet)

To maintain quality of managed park provision

- Implement Parks Management Plans
Management Plans continue to be developed and implemented throughout 2014-15 (taking into account any feedback and findings resulting from Green Flag inspections). Currently feedback has only been received in respect of Ravenhill park. Any relevant actions/changes are being incorporated into the revised Management Plan

AGREED:

That the Quarter 2 performance be noted.

26. Next meeting

Members discussed a possible venue for the next meeting on 21 January, 2015. The Chairman suggested Ravenhill Park so that Members could see the facilities on offer. The Head of Commissioning suggested that it may be an idea to alternate the venues and to hold the next meeting in Cannock. Members agreed that the January meeting would be held at Chase Leisure Centre. The Head of Commissioning suggested that

Members could have a tour prior to the start of the meeting in order to view the facilities the Chase Leisure Centre had to offer. It was agreed that a tour of the facilities be arranged for 3.30pm prior to the meeting at 4.00pm.

AGREED:

That the next meeting on 21 January, 2015 be held at Chase Leisure centre at 4.00pm with a tour of the facilities taking place at 3.30pm.

27. Other issues

The Head of Commissioning asked the Committee to note that WLCT had given notification that the catering facilities at Chase Leisure Centre were to be revised. The current "Delicious" café bar would be closing as from 31 October, 2014 and the vending facilities would be extended. In addition WLCT were looking at providing a lounge area with a TV and possibly Wi-Fi facilities. Members noted it was WLCT's business decision as the provision of catering facilities was outside of the remit of the contract.

A Member raised concern regarding the condition of the children's play area on Green Lane, Rugeley. A Member commented that the Environment Portfolio Leader was in discussions with Morrison's about the possibility of the play area being updated via a s106 obligation as part of the new development by Morrison's.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that funding had not been secured to update the park and he did not think that s106 funding was appropriate or achievable from this development. He also explained that this was not included in the current Capital Programme.

The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader advised that she would request that Officers inspect the park to highlight and remove any dangerous equipment.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that play areas were inspected on a weekly/fortnightly basis.

The meeting finished at 5.00pm.

CHAIRMAN