

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Dudson, A. (Chairman)  
Freeman, Miss M.A. (Vice-Chairman)

Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.    Mitchell, Mrs. C.  
Davies, D.N.                Morgan, C.W.J.  
Grocott, M.R.                Sutton, Mrs. H.M.  
Johnson, J.

(The Chairman agreed that the order of the agenda would be amended and the presentation on the Projects Update would be considered before the Hednesford Park HLF project presentation).

**5. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**6. 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:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Type</b>
Grocott, M.R.	Projects Update – Member's wife employed by Hagley Park Academy	Personal
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Projects Update – Member of Cannock Chase Football League	Personal

**7. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 August, 2013 be approved as a correct record subject to Councillor M.R. Grocott being listed as having submitted his apologies for the meeting.

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

The Chairman advised that the report considered at Cabinet on 19 September entitled "Quarter 1 Performance Review of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust" was included on the agenda for Members information.

Councillor Grocott made reference to the percentage figures relating to "gender split" for Concessionary Card Holders outlined on Enclosure 15.32 of the report and raised concern that the figures appeared not to add up.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the figures did add up when considered separately. The figures presented identified the gender split by number and percentage for Concessionary Card Holders by facility (Chase Leisure Centre, Rugeley Leisure Centre and the Golf). The fourth set of figures identified the gender split by number and percentage for the total number of Concessionary Card Holders across all the three facilities. As such the percentages can only be considered individually.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

## **9. Presentation from the Head of Commissioning – Projects Update**

The Head of Commissioning advised that the presentation would provide a Quarter 2 update on the key service actions that were linked to the service aims.

- **Review Managed Parks Provision**

Members were advised that the Parks and Open Spaces Manager would provide an update on the HLF project at Hednesford Park later on in the agenda.

He confirmed that all parks in the District had retained the Green Flag Award in June/July 2013 and the Management Plans had been updated accordingly. There was a ten year Management Plan for each park and these were reviewed annually. Councillor Mrs. Freeman asked if the Anti-social behaviour plan had been included. The Parks and Open Spaces Manager advised that the ASB plan had been formulated too late to be included; however all Parks had an ASB plan and this would be included in the Management Plans when there were any further amendments. Although these were a target for Quarter 4 they have been completed early.

- **Review of Burial Space within the District**

The Committee noted that Cabinet on 25 July, 2013 had approved permission to spend £259k on extending Stile Cop Cemetery. The Planning application had been submitted in October 2013 and was due to be considered by the Planning Control Committee later this year.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the Parks and Open Spaces Manager's team were continuing to investigate suitable land for burial ground south of the AONB.

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

## **contract**

The Committee was advised that 6 monthly meetings had been held with WLCT. The Quarter 1 Performance report was considered by Cabinet on 19 September, 2013 and was also considered by Members earlier on in the agenda today.

Members noted the decision by the Rugeley Academies to not use the Rugeley Leisure Centre pool for swimming lessons from September for financial reasons. This impacted on the contract and also on the students. The County Council have confirmed that the funding for the provision of swimming has been transferred to the Rugeley Academies. The Council's District Commissioning Lead is in the process of setting up a meeting with all parties including the Head Teacher, County and District Council Officers and WLCT.

Members expressed concern that the Academies would have been allocated money for the swimming lessons from the County Council and were now not taking advantage of the lessons.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that it was anticipated the meeting would be arranged either before or after the October half term. He would report back to Members on the outcome of the discussions.

He further reported that WLCT had confirmed they were on target to increase participation levels in culture and leisure services and facilities by 33%. Participation levels both quarterly (Q1 – 52.2% and Q2 – 60%) and year to date have exceeded target. At the second quarter the increase in participation levels was 55.9%.

Councillor Grocott referred to the annual target of 33% which he considered to be very optimistic. He commented that this issue had been discussed at the Scrutiny Committee held on 9 October where Members had raised concern that the target was not sustainable year after year. He and Councillor Mrs. Freeman, who were in attendance at the Scrutiny Committee, sought clarification as to whether this target of 33% was just for this year or for the following years as well.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that there was no intention for the target to be set at 33% each year. It was an annual target and would be reviewed each year. The opening of the Chase Leisure Centre pool would have assisted in the large increase in participation levels this year. However, he would check the understanding at the Scrutiny Committee and advise Members accordingly.

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

Members noted that the Leisure Concessionary Scheme was provided by WLCT as part of the contract. The target of 5% increase in Chase Lifestyle concession cardholders had been exceeded in the first 2 quarters of the year, with the year to date position showing a 10% increase. Additionally, the new Sensory Room at Chase Leisure Centre had opened in August 2013.

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

The Head of Commissioning advised that feasibility studies in relation to the

former Stadium Site had been started. Consultants were working on the results of the studies and a report would be submitted to Cabinet in the new year.

Members noted that WLCT were continuing with their commitment to investing in culture and leisure facilities within the district. £68k was invested in Q1 and a further £97k has been secured from HLF which, supplemented with a further £60k investment by WLCT will be invested in to the renewal of the permanent exhibition at the Museum of Cannock Chase.

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

Members were advised that WLCT are committed to developing volunteering and have appointed two apprenticeship posts. Both apprentices 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 Q2 (1,0316.75hrs) is above the Q2 target (956hrs) and on track to achieve the annual target. The annual target of 65 volunteers is also on track.

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

Members noted that the number of activities held in Q2 (321) is marginally below target of 325 but the year to date figure of 715 is above target of 650 and on track to achieve the annual target.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the presentation be noted.

(B) That the Head of Commissioning advise Members of the outcome of the discussions with the Rugeley Academies regarding their decision to cease school swimming lessons at Rugeley Leisure Centre.

(C) That the Head of Commissioning check the understanding at Scrutiny Committee as to whether the 33% target to increase participation levels in culture and leisure services and facilities was the proposed target for future years and advise Members accordingly.

## **10. Hednesford Park – HLF Project**

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager provided Members with a presentation on the Heritage Lottery Fund Project to improve Hednesford Park. The presentation provided a brief outline of the background to the bid, gave an update on the progress of the scheme, outlined the partnership funding and an overview of the consultation that had been undertaken. It also showed Members the timetable of activities for the years 2013 – 2105. It was stressed that this was an overview would inevitably be subject to change. Plans showing the proposals for the park were circulated to the Committee.

### **Timetable overview 2013:**

- **May** Permission to Start.
- **June-August** Refurbish Tennis Courts (SEF Funding)
- **Oct** Planning Application(Sport England Holding Objection)
- **December** Recruit Community & Education Officer  
Plant tree Avenue (1 side)  
Fell trees Rugeley Road/War Memorial
- Recruit Landscape Assistant (Backfill for CCDC Officer)
- Commission Architect
- Contract Specifications ongoing

#### **Timetable overview 2014:**

- **Jan-March** lay car park out, change levels from Rugeley Road, fell trees to gain sight lines to War Memorial and allow secondary path to be constructed
- **June-August** Refurbish War Memorial gates and paths, install Green gym and lighting, finish car park path to Teen-Zone, Pavilion Refurbishment
- **Oct** Start Skate Park, MUGA
- **November** Open Revamped War memorial, renovate Bowling Green, Finish Avenue
- **Dec** Recruit Community Gardener (5 years)
- Contract Specifications ongoing

#### **Timetable overview 2015:**

- **May** Finish Banks by football Pitch and main entrance feature
- **June-August** start Toddler/Junior play areas
- **Oct** Fell existing Avenue trees, re-seed banks, install Sail area
- **November** Finish Planting around Bowling Green, recreate bedding displays
- **Dec** Commission lighting, remove existing skate park and play equipment
- Contract Specifications ongoing

The Management and Maintenance Plan, which was based on the 8 key Green Flag Award criteria was outlined for Members information.

Members noted the aims that had to be achieved in order for the project closure in the 2016-17:

- Need to gain Green Flag and retain for 5 years
- Increased Council Funding per annum -10 years
- Programme of events -10 years
- CD/Book legacy
- Review Café agreement
- Bowling Green Club Management
- Continue "Claims" to HLF for Council Income to 2018

The Chairman asked whether the Council would be liable in the event of an individual injuring themselves on the park. The Parks and Open Spaces Manager confirmed that as long as the park and the equipment were fit for purpose then the Council would not be liable in the event of an injury. The Chairman suggested that notices be displayed throughout the park advising the public that the equipment should be used at their own risk.

Councillor Mrs. Mitchell sought advice on whether any improvements could be made to the traffic lights which lead to the Memorial as it was very difficult to cross. The Parks and Open Spaces Manager advised that he would raise this issue with Staffordshire County Council Highways.

Councillor Mrs. Freeman asked whether there were any plans for security for the site. The Parks and Open Spaces Manager explained that the HLF project did not fund the provision of CCTV cameras. However, it was hoped that posts could be installed which would accommodate a camera in the future. He confirmed that it may be possible to explore alternative funding avenues.

Councillor Davies asked whether any money was being made available for maintenance. Members considered it was important for the Park to be maintained once the project was complete. The Parks and Open Spaces Manager advised that Finance were aware of the commitment "in principle" to set aside an additional provision for maintenance over the next 10 years.

In response to a question regarding football pitches the Parks and Open Spaces Manager advised that the proposed layout of the park included 2 adult pitches and 1 junior pitch. Sport England had raised concern in response to the Planning application as grass was being lost to make way for car parking. However, discussions would be taking place with Sport England on 17 October, 2013 regarding football provision in the District as part of the planning application process.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

The Chairman thanked Officers for their presentations and closed the meeting at 5.25pm.

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CHAIRMAN