

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2005 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)
 Williams, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C. Easton, R.
Beddows, J. Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Daly, K. Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Also present: Grocott, M.R. (Culture and Sport Leader)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members expressed their delight that London had been awarded the Olympics in 2012. It was requested that a letter be sent to the Olympic Committee extending the Select Committee's congratulations and offering the use of the Cannock Stadium.

The Head of Leisure reported that she would provide an update report at a future meeting of the Select Committee regarding the impact of the successful Olympic bid for the West Midlands Region.

1. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters

Member	Nature of Interest	Type
Williams A.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Williams, A.	Member of Rugeley Rose Committee	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal
Easton, R.	Leisure Concessions Report – Registered Disabled	Personal

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2005 were approved as a correct record.

3. Leisure Concessions

Consideration was given to the Report of the Culture and Sport Select Committee (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Leisure Operations Manager outlined the various issues, conclusions and recommendations of the Report on Leisure Concessions.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the following recommendations be supported by the Select Committee for approval by Cabinet.
- That the existing membership schemes available at Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centre be combined with the concessionary scheme and the whole scheme re-launched as 'THE CHASE CARD'.
 - That a marketing plan be established to raise awareness of the new scheme and to target the individuals able to access the scheme.
 - That all residents who live in the District should be able to apply for and hold a 'Chase Card' and receive a 10% discount.
 - That all residents, individuals and immediate family, who receive Council Tax Benefit or Housing Benefit receive 50% discount. Anyone who is in this category and also lives in a Lower Super Output Area (SOA), rated as one of the top 25% most deprived in the country, to receive 100% discount on swimming.
 - That all residents aged 60 or over receive 25% discount.
 - That helpers or carers of disabled Chase Card holders be able to accompany them free of charge.
 - That all students who receive Council Tax Benefit or Housing Benefit, or whose parents receive the benefits if they reside with them, to receive 50% discount.
 - That anyone referred under a GP scheme in receipt of Council Tax or Housing Benefit receive 50% discount.
 - That the new Chase Card Scheme be launched from 1 January 2006, presuming the necessary information technology is put into place.

- That the facilities available under the new scheme be:
 - Chase Leisure Centre
 - Rugeley Leisure Centre
 - Cannock Sports Stadium
 - Prince of Wales Theatre
 - Museum of Cannock Chase
 - Parks and Golf Course
- That all individual activities, courses and tickets be available under the Chase Card.
- That prior to the launch of the scheme specific targets that demonstrate links into the CHASE objectives are established for each category of Card Holder to allow the scheme to be monitored.
- That a corporate category for all local schools be introduced to allow them 25% discounts when booking facilities during term time and during school hours.

(B) That consideration be given to the following issues:-

- That Huntington residents be eligible to apply for and hold a 'Chase Card' and receive a 10% discount.
- That those residents in receipt of either a War Pension or Disability Living Allowance be eligible to receive a 50% discount.

(C) That in view of the above, a costed estimate be put forward as a Policy Option under the Delivering Change Process.

4. **Staffordshire Disability Research Project and Sports Development Forum Year Nine Survey**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Leisure (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Leisure circulated the "Chase It" booklet to Members that outlined a programme of trips and activities open to all children and young people aged between 5-13 years living in Cannock Chase. She reported that the majority of trips and activities were now fully booked. Members congratulated Officers on the programme of activities available.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the key findings of the report on the Staffordshire Disability Research Project and the Sports Development Forum – Year Nine Survey be noted.
- (B) That the actions planned to address the key findings as outlined in the report be submitted to Cabinet.

(C) That an update report on the smoking cessation courses be provided at the next meeting of the Select Committee.

5. Update Report on Chase Disco

The Head of Leisure advised that she had been requested to investigate a number of issues regarding the Chase Disco.

She advised Members that:-

- there was 1 supervisor for every 50 young people
- the Public Liability Insurance Certificate was in order
- the correct level of charging for the facility was being made

The Head of Leisure considered that the correct pricing policy and supervision levels were in place at the Chase Disco.

6. Refurbishment of the Cannock Cemetery Lodge

The Head of Leisure advised that at a previous meeting of the Select Committee she had been requested to provide an update on the position of the refurbishment of the Cannock Cemetery Lodge.

She advised that the refurbishment of the Lodge was being co-ordinated by Property Services. However, Building Control and Leisure Services would also be involved. The refurbishment would include the following:-

- pathway improvements
- signage improvements
- removal of the wall and shed
- removal of the overgrown garden
- extending the burial space
- providing a garden of remembrance
- replacing the public convenience (with a disabled facility)
- investigating a one-way system

One contractor would be carrying out all the works and the contract would specify that the work be undertaken between Monday-Friday only, that no music be played during the works and that during a burial works would cease.

It was anticipated that work would commence on the refurbishment of the Sexton's House around October 2005. Concern was expressed that the Sexton had not yet been appointed and Members sought clarification regarding responsibilities of the appointed person. The Head of Leisure advised that a restructure of the Cemetery operatives had taken place and the duties of the traditional Sexton's post were being met by existing employees.

Arising from this, a discussion took place regarding the situation with the testing of the headstones and memorials and the need for all headstones to be installed correctly in the future.

7. Work Programme

The Head of Performance Management circulated a draft Work Programme to Members. She explained that the work programme would be focused around the Leisure Review currently taking place and that the involvement of the Select Committee was considered to be important.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme of the Select Committee for 2005/06 include the following issues:-

- Leisure Business Plan
- Cannock Stadium Report
- PPG17 Indoor Facilities Audit
- Playing Pitch Strategy
- Swimming Pool Proposals
- Leisure Review Update
- Cultural Strategy
- Update on Cannock Town Centre Redevelopment
- Chase Leisure Centre Site Development Proposals

Arising from consideration of the Work Programme a discussion took place on the condition of the tennis courts at Cannock Park and the policing and security of the park.

The Select Committee considered the refurbishment of the tennis courts to be important but acknowledged the significant costs involved.

CHAIRMAN