

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, R.
Beddows, J.	Mitchell, C.
Carr, I.R.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Easton, Mrs. D.M.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Easton, R.	

By invitation: Councillor M.R. Grocott (Children and Young People Leader)
Councillor N.K. Stanley (Leader of the Council)

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. L.J. Pearce).

18. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December, 2007 be approved as a correct record.

19. Big Lottery Award

Wayne Goodwin, Leisure Strategy Manager gave a presentation to Members on the Big Lottery Award.

Councillor J. Beddows reported on the Norton Canes activity scheme, KONCAS (Kids of Norton Canes Activity Scheme) which was funded until 2009 and provided a range of activities for children and young people. He stated that local businesses had provided an indication that crime and vandalism had reduced since the scheme had been established.

Members were supportive of the KONCAS scheme and keen to see a similar initiative across the District.

Members asked if deprivation in the District had been identified. The Leisure Strategy Manager reported that 12 areas had been identified and he would provide information to

Members.

AGREED:

That a list of the 12 most deprived areas of the District be provided to Members of the Children and Young People Select Committee

20. Play Strategy

The Leisure Strategy Manager reported that the Play Strategy was now out to public consultation and comments on the Strategy were required by 29 February, 2008.

He also stated that he would provide Members with a list of the partners consulted on the Play Strategy.

AGREED:

That a list of the partners consulted on the Play Strategy be provided to Members of the Children and Young People Select Committee.

21. 2007-08 Programme – Capital Schemes Update Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Tony McGovern, Director of Organisational Improvement briefed Members on each of the items contained within the report:-

Hawks Green Capital Works – Meadow Way/Hayes Way

It was reported that tree planting and seeding works were outstanding at Hayes Way due to the current weather conditions. It was likely that the works would commence during the spring time. Trees would be planted near the footpath and shrubs had been reduced in play areas, and there were no plans to screen plant in those areas. Chris Sanderson, Landscape Development Officer reported that vandalism of play equipment was a problem on the senior area due to the cost of replacement parts but there was a relatively small cost due to the vandalism of equipment on the Hayes Way play area.

North End Park, Rugeley

Members raised concern in relation to dog fouling on the area of land and asked what could be put in place to try and alleviate the problem. The Landscape Development Officer reported that signage was already in place but there was a need to consider enforcement action. He reported that he would liaise with Environmental Health to write to the owners as there was not a dog ban in place in the area and the park was available for any member of the public to use. Furthermore, he reported that the Council were trying to secure additional funding for a fence and stated that the current Section 106 money had now almost been spent.

Old Hednesford Parkland Development Scheme

The Director of Organisational Improvement updated the Committee on the results of the recent consultation exercise to develop the green space. The public response had not been supportive of the original proposals and these had been changed. Cabinet had taken a number of decisions in January 2008 to provide £95,000 funding for the alternative scheme to establish some structured activities on the site and to review the name of the site.

Members sought clarification as to why Cabinet had decided to review the current name of the site. The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that there was confusion between this site and Hednesford Park on Rugeley Road, and that Old Hednesford Parkland was in the Hawks Green constituency and was described locally by some residents as Hemlock Park. In order to respond to the views of the public, it had been decided by Cabinet to review the name of this site once the physical works had been completed. He also stated that 53 responses had been received from residents in the area and the Council had offered to keep them informed of developments and send each respondent a copy of the Cabinet report and analysis of consultation findings.

Cannock Park Replacement Fencing

The Landscape Development Officer reported that the design for the new gates had been altered following consultation with Friends of Cannock Park and further quotations were being sought. Members were advised of the location of the gates to the entrances at Cannock Park and that they would be of a similar design to the ones off Park Road, Cannock.

Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities (Athletics Track, ATP and MUGA's)

The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that the fourth design Option B2 had been agreed in principle, and commitment had been given to a 25 year lease. Blake Valley Technology College were still to confirm their position and were due to consider the draft Heads of Terms agreement next week.

It was requested that the proposed report be submitted to Cabinet to include a changing area under the grandstand. Concern was expressed with regard to a leaflet allegedly being circulated around the District by a Member stating that the project was finalised. An update was also requested in relation to Cannock and Stafford Athletics Club and if there was an update from Sport England.

The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that a meeting had taken place between the Council and the Athletics Club to discuss the support required and also the break in provision. A further meeting was scheduled for Thursday 7 February 2008 to receive information from the Athletics Club. In relation to an update from Sport England it was agreed that Sport England would specify conditions that the Council must meet in relation to the Planning Application for the Pye Green site and this information would then be considered by the Planning Control Committee in due course.

Members raised concern that although Option B2 had been agreed in principle Members of the Committee had not received any information. The Director of Organisational

Improvement reported that the agreement had only been sought last week and no information had been circulated in respect of this other than to Officers and relevant Cabinet Members.

Cannock Sports Stadium

Clarification was sought in relation to the legal bond. The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that the legal bond was drawn up by this Council and sent to Sport England. However Sport England had subsequently identified that they would not be able to enter into the bond due to their Constitution, and it was now certain that the bond would have to be replaced with a Section 106 agreement.

Chase Heritage Trail

The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that there was likely to be a 2 month delay in order that discussions could take place with private landowners and tenants to resolve certain issues.

Rugeley Swimming Pool

Members asked if the Council were likely to incur any penalties as a result of the delay with the completion of the swimming pool. The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that there were penalty clauses, but was not able to go into the detail of what they were.

Rolling Programme

The Landscape Development Officer reported that upgrade work would commence at Redhill Park on equipment and works were currently being carried out at Heath Hayes Park where equipment was being replaced due to deterioration.

Councillors R. Easton and Mrs. M. Easton thanked Contractors and Officers for the work carried out at Ravenhill Park, Rugeley and added that the mothers and toddlers group had also expressed their thanks.

Members asked if there were any plans to include play areas in the District for the over 60's. The Landscape Development Officer reported that the Council were looking into the possibility and were also working towards obtaining the Green Flag recognition for Cannock Park.

AGREED:

- (A) That the Capital Scheme updates in respect of the Council's 2007-08 programmes as outlined in the report be noted.
- (B) That the Landscape Development Officer liaise with Environmental Health in relation to considering appropriate enforcement action against the owners of dogs fouling on the area of land at North End Park.

22. Oxford Green Play Area Development Update

The Landscape Development Officer reported that Section 106 money had been allocated to the scheme which could either be used to support it or pay for the cost of the lease. Discussions had taken place with Groundwork Trust who were keen to identify additional funds for the development. Following discussions with Staffordshire County Council it was agreed that a lease be taken over 15 years although 25 years was required. Should a longer lease be required then additional funding would be needed. The next stage would involve a meeting with Ward Members and residents on how the scheme could be progressed.

CHAIRMAN