

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 4.00 PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)
Meaden, R.G. (Vice-Chairman)

Beddows, J. Morgan, C.W.J.
Mitchell, C. Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F.W.C. Allen, I.R. Carr and M.R. Grocott (Children and Young People Portfolio Leader))

11. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September, 2007 be approved as a correct record.

With regard to the Play Strategy 2007-2012, Ms. Karen Bradford, Head of Culture and Major Projects advised that a decision relating to the application for the £220,000 Big Lottery funding was expected by 10 December 2007. Ms. Bradford stated that she would forward a letter to all Members of the Select Committee to inform them of the outcome of this bid.

12. 2007-08 Programme – Capital Schemes Update Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Culture and Major Projects (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

With regard to the scheme relating to the Meadow Way Play Area Ms. Bradford informed the Select Committee that a Working Group involving residents, elected Members, Police and representatives from various organisations had met to assist in combating the anti social behaviour problems being experienced at this new play area.

Members then discussed the project relating to the Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities and sought clarification on two issues:

- Confirmation of the proposed alternative locations should the preferred location for the athletics track and other sporting facilities at Blake Valley Technology College (BVTC) be unachievable;
- Confirmation of Staffordshire County Council's support for the athletics track and other sporting facilities at BVTC.

Ms. Bradford advised that Senior Officers from Staffordshire County Council had given their support in principle for the project at a meeting on 9 October 2007 and had also commented on their preferred design option. Further discussions would take place with the Head Teacher at BVTC prior to a recommendation hopefully being submitted to the School Governors. She confirmed that elected Members of Staffordshire County Council had not been involved in this meeting.

She further advised that Cannock Chase Council officers had undertaken an assessment of possible alternative locations should the preferred location at BVTC be unachievable. She confirmed that seven alternative locations that had been identified and it was considered that two of the locations had potential for development. She was unable to confirm the location of these two alternative sites as no consultation had taken place with the landowners. She stated that a tight deadline for a joint agreement would need to be met if the project was to be completed at the preferred location of BVTC next year.

With regard to the project relating to the disposal of the Cannock Sports Stadium site Members sought confirmation of the queries Sport England had raised in response to the planning application that had been submitted. Ms. Bradford stated that she was not the lead officer for the disposal of the Stadium site but she confirmed that Sport England had requested that a bond be provided by the Council to ensure that replacement facilities were provided in the District should the Stadium land be sold. Ms. Bradford suggested that the Select Committee may wish to receive a detailed report from the appropriate lead officer on the disposal of the Stadium site at a future meeting of the Select Committee.

In view of the concerns expressed with regard to the projects relating to the Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities and the disposal of Cannock Sports Stadium site Members considered that an additional meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee should be arranged in order that the concerns raised by Members could be responded to more fully. Members requested that Les Trigg, Deputy Chief Executive, Bob Phillips, Head of Regeneration and Karen Bradford, Head of Culture and Major Projects provide Members with update reports on the current position regarding the two projects. A provisional date of Wednesday 12 December 2007 was suggested subject to the availability of the appropriate officers.

Members also considered that Les Trigg, Deputy Chief Executive should be requested to attend future meetings of the Select Committee when the projects relating to the disposal of Cannock Sports Stadium site and Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities were included on the agenda.

AGREED:

- (A) That the content of the capital scheme updates in respect of the Council's 2007-08 programmes as outlined in the report be noted.

- (B) That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to attend future meetings of the Select Committee when the projects relating to Cannock Sports Stadium and Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities were on the agenda.
- (C) That an additional meeting of the Select Committee be arranged and appropriate officers provide update reports on the current position regarding the projects relating to the Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities and the Disposal of Cannock Sports Stadium site.

13. Oxford Green

Ms. Bradford advised that with regard to the Oxford Green Public Open Space Enhancement Scheme Staffordshire County Council had offered a fifteen year lease with a rental sum of £500 per annum. Negotiations with Staffordshire County Council would continue in respect of trying to extend the lease period further and reduce the annual rent.

14. Springvale School Open Space

Ms. Bradford circulated a plan of the site for Members information. The District Council had registered an interest with Staffordshire County Council to use the site as a playing field play area or open space. A response was awaited from Staffordshire County Council on the proposals for a lease agreement and costs. An assessment of the deficiencies in playing fields and open space sites in the area would be undertaken and consideration would be given to the fact that housing surrounded the site when determining an appropriate use for the site.

15. Work Programme

Consideration was given to the Work Programme of the Select Committee. Ms. Bradford advised that it had been necessary to amend the Work Programme and a revised copy was circulated at the meeting.

It was proposed that the following items be considered at the meeting of the Select Committee on 16 January 2008:

- Chase Village Brief – update
- Update on Capital Schemes
- Oxford Green Play Area Development Update
- Springvale Primary School Update

It was also proposed that the following items be considered at the Select Committee on 4 March 2008:

- Leisure Pass Review Update
- Overview of the role of the Children Trust Board (representative to be invited to attend Select Committee)
- Stadium disposal update
- Location of the Athletics track update

The Chairman stated that the meeting of the Select Committee scheduled for 4 March, 2008 would need to be rearranged as she was not available on that day. An alternative date would be agreed, in consultation with the Chairman of the Select Committee, and Members of the Select Committee would be advised accordingly.

AGREED:

- (A) That the amendments to the Work Programme as outlined above be noted.
- (B) That, in consultation with the Chairman of the Select Committee, the meeting of the Select Committee scheduled for 4 March 2008 be rearranged to an alternative date.

CHAIRMAN