

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH, 2014 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)

Grocott, M.R. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Johnson, J. Whitehouse, Mrs. L.M.
Mitchell, C.

16. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C.W.J. Morgan.

17. 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.

18. Minutes

A Member made reference to the request at the previous meeting for more detailed information to be included on the agenda explaining the agenda items. The Head of Commissioning apologised for not including more information, however, he explained that the purpose of the meeting was to brief Members on the event in Hednesford Park on 20 March, 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January, 2014 be approved as a correct record subject to the venue for the meeting being amended to read Museum of Cannock Chase.

19. Presentation from the Head of Commissioning on PDP Actions (April to February 2014)

The Head of Commissioning explained that the presentation would provide an update on the key service actions that were linked to the seven service aims.

- **Review Managed Parks Provision**

Members noted that the Green Flag Award had been retained for all 4

parks in the District. The management plans were in the process of being updated and on track to be completed in Quarter 4. The Hednesford Park Project was progressing well; works were completed on the new tennis courts in August 2013 and planning permission was approved in October 2013. Additional resources had been recruited to support the project. Architects had now been appointed and the structural survey of the pavilion had been completed. The No 1 signal box had been relocated to Hednesford Park in February 2014. Phase 1 of the tree planting had also been completed.

He advised Members of the Mining Memories Walk on 22 March between 11am – 1pm which would commence at the Museum of Cannock Chase. Members also noted that the specifications for the pavilion and the hard works (pathways) were due to be issued in April 2014.

Reference was made to the Information Event in Hednesford Park which was due to take place on 20 March 2014 between 11am and 8pm. Members would be provided with further information on this event later on in the agenda.

The Committee asked that their congratulations be passed on to staff who were involved in retaining the Green Flag Awards for all 4 parks. The Parks and Open Spaces Manager confirmed he would pass these on to the staff involved.

- **Review Burial Space within the District**

Cabinet on 25 July 2013 had approved permission to spend £295k on extending Stile Cop Cemetery. The Planning application had been submitted in October 2013 and approved in December 2013. The specification for the works would be completed in Quarter 1 of 2014-15.

A Member asked for an update on whether a suitable burial site this side of the Chase had been identified. The Committee was advised that a site had been identified and liaison with the Environment Agency was continuing to ascertain whether the site was suitable.

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

There had been 11 monthly contract meetings held with WLCT. Quarter 1 performance report had been submitted to Cabinet on 19 September 2013 and Quarters 1 and 2 performance had been considered by the Culture and Sport PDC on 15 October 2013. Quarter 3 would be submitted to Cabinet on 20 March, 2014.

The annual target of 33% to increase participation levels in culture and leisure services and facilities had exceeded the targets for the first 3 quarters of the financial year, and for the year to date (April-Feb) the level is 49.5% above the level achieved for the same period last year. There had been over 654,000 participants in Leisure Services and 90,200 in Cultural Services with quarterly visits up by 19%. There were 1,600 young people booked on swimming programmes and memberships at the two leisure centres was up by 18%.

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

A Leisure Concessionary Scheme was provided as part of the WLCT contract. The annual target of 5% increase in Chase Lifestyle concession cardholders was exceeded in the first 3 quarters of this year, with the year to date position showing a 17.2% increase. (4,459 Chase Lifestyle Concession Cardholders).

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

With regard to the feasibility studies on the former stadium site Members noted that work started in August 2013 as planned. The interim feasibility findings were reported to Cabinet in October 2013. The costed design options were on schedule to be completed during Quarter 4 and would be presented to Cabinet/DMT in April.

With regard to the investment in the Mining Gallery Members noted that the development proposals were on track and the Gallery was due to open at Easter. Members would be invited to an informal preview on 2 April between 3pm and 5pm. The formal opening would either be 21 or 28 June and again Members would be invited.

WLCT were continuing with their commitment to investing in culture and leisure facilities within the district. WLCT had invested £68k in Quarter 1 and a further £97k had been secured from the HLF.

Other investments included the on line booking system and new LED lighting at the Prince of Wales Theatre and the opening of the new sensory room at Chase Leisure Centre.

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

WLCT were committed to developing volunteering and the annual target to appoint two apprentices had been achieved. The number of volunteering hours reported by WLCT (year to date) is 3,754.5 and on track to achieve the annual target of 3,842. The annual volunteering target of 65 is on track to be achieved by the end of the year and this is supported by the over achievement on the volunteering hours.

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

To work with WLCT to target activities of those with health needs (older people, obese adults and children). The number of activities held year to date is 1,165 and on track to achieve the annual target of 1,215.

Members noted that WLCT had done well in achieving the targets set during the last Municipal Year. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that 75% of the targets had been achieved. Members considered that it was not possible for targets to keep increasing as there were only so many residents available to use the facilities. This was understood but as a general guide it was anticipated that targets should increase 1% year on year. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the focus should also be on trying to encourage the hard to reach groups (those not currently using facilities) to use

the facilities.

Members were then shown a number of photographs of the No 1 Signal box being relocated in Hednesford Park. The Committee noted that it was intended for some of the levers to be put back in the Signal box. This would be of an educational benefit for children.

Presentation on the HLF Public Information Event – Hednesford Park 20 March, 2014

Colin Donnelly, Landscape Projects Officer, advised the Committee of the event taking place at Hednesford Park on 20 March, 2014. The event would run from 11am to 8pm with Council staff on hand to explain the proposed works and to answer any questions. A 3D walk-through of the park would be on display showing the proposed development, together with images of the site before and after the works have been completed. There would also be information about the existing trees at the park, the proposed tree works and details of the new planting taking place.

Members were shown the 3D visualisation.

A Member sought clarification for the reason of the removal of the tree. It was explained that the tree works were necessary as some of the trees were only planted to rectify some drainage issues. A number of the trees should have been removed during the last 15-20 years; however, this had not happened. It was also necessary to improve views both into and out of the Park and to link the War Memorial with the Park. It was anticipated that there may be some concern raised at the event over the felling of the trees. However, there were actually more trees being planted than removed and the reasons for the tree works would be explained.

The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the event was an information sharing event to advise the public of the proposed plans for the park. It was not a consultation event as the proposals had been approved as part of the HLF funding.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their presentations.

AGREED:

That the presentations be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm.

CHAIRMAN