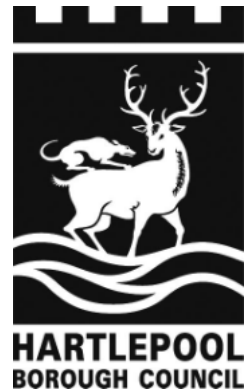


CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Tuesday, 24th November 2009

at 2.00 pm

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

Councillor V Tumilty, Cabinet Member responsible for Culture, Leisure and Tourism will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

No items

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 Grayfields Recreation Ground – Pitch Allocation and Booking Process – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 2.2 Naturists Request at Seaton Carew – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 2.3 Loan of 'Gala Day at Newlyn, 1907' by Stanhope Forbes – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/2010 – 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 3.2 Beach Lifeguard Season 2009 – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items

CULTURE LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

24 November 2009



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: GRAYFIELDS RECREATION GROUND -
PITCH ALLOCATION AND BOOKING
PROCESS.

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Further to the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio report of 20th June 2006, this report seeks approval:

- To amend recommendations accepted in the 20th June 2006 Portfolio Report - *“Development of Grayfields recreation ground and allocation of pitches appropriate to achieving quality standards”* and further clarify how pitch allocation at the recreation ground will be prioritised in the future.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 At the start of August 2009 it became apparent that demands by teams to use the Railed Pitch at Grayfields was increasing with potential fixture conflicts. Four teams expressed an interest in using the Railed Pitch facilities and a consultation exercise was undertaken with all users to establish their qualification to use the facility.
- 2.2 This report highlights the findings of the consultation and provides recommendations for the future allocation of pitches at the Grayfields Recreation Ground.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Sport and Recreation.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-Key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

This is an executive decision by the Portfolio Holder.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The portfolio Holder is requested to approve:

- (i) At present (2009 season) only the North East Women's League (**Hartlepool St Francis**) is officially qualified from a league perspective to use the Railed Pitch
- (ii) Note that the 2006 Portfolio Report recommendation relating to teams who play in the Teesside Leagues and Durham Alliance League would appear to be problematic in that it incorrectly promotes **Hartlepool Town FC**, who currently according to the evidence provided do not officially require a railed pitch, to a position where they are being allowed access to a facility they do not require. This issue needs to be resolved and the fairest way would be to rescind the teams rights to this Railed Pitch and amend the qualification requirements to use it as recommended in this report, see recommendation 5 below.
- (iii) That all teams booking pitches at Grayfields must use the official pitch numbering system and go through the Mill House booking system. Supplying a fixture listing for HBC staff to decipher is not, and will not be acceptable.
- (iv) That assignment of all pitches below Tier 7 status including the Railed Pitch will be on the basis of: (i). **Qualification of teams to use facility**, (ii). **Pitch capacity (time)**, (iii). **Pitch durability**. If the Mill House booking system suggests the pitch is going to be potentially under used during a season it will, at its discretion, be able to temporarily allow the Railed Pitch to be rostered into the fixture lists of other leagues but this must not be at the detriment of teams officially qualified to use the facility. The only way this can be done is through the use of the Mill House booking system which will co-ordinate.
- (v) That leagues and teams work within the parameters of the Mill House booking system so that cases of insufficient pitches being available for fixtures leagues who are not qualified to use the railed pitch want to play can be minimised. Specifically if capacity issues can be identified early on alternative plans can be put in motion. This might include assignment of the Railed Pitch as discussed in (5) above, or staggering kick-off times on other pitches, or playing the match on other facilities away from Hartlepool.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: GRAYFIELDS RECREATION GROUND -
PITCH ALLOCATION AND BOOKING
PROCESS.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Further to the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio report of 20th June 2006, this report seeks approval:
- To amend recommendations accepted in the 20th June 2006 Portfolio Report - "*Development of Grayfields recreation ground and allocation of pitches appropriate to achieving quality standards*" and further clarify how pitch allocation at the recreation ground will be prioritised in the future.

2. FOR INFORMATION - 2006 PITCH ALLOCATION PROCEEDURES

- 2.1 The following is taken from the Portfolio Holder report of 20th June 2006 "*Development of Grayfields recreation ground and allocation of pitches appropriate to achieving quality standards*" the items in **bold** are my emphasis to highlight certain points which seem to have direct relevance to the discussion that follows.

- 2.2 The following is amongst the report's conclusions: -

Item '7.4 Having re-inspected the ground, reviewed the pitch layouts and identified the longer term development proposals it is recommended that the following guidelines and improvements are adopted: -

- 1. That Grayfields Enclosure is reserved for Tier 7 Football League Standard –whenever a team or teams achieve this standard.*
- 2. Whenever no team exists at this standard, the Grayfields Enclosure can be used by Teams from the Teesside and / or Durham Alliance League.*
- 3. The Grayfields Enclosure continue to be allocated for any end of season Hartlepool League Cup Finals until the 2nd Saturday in May.*
- 4. That pitch FP2 be upgraded in dimension and facilities i.e. a railed off pitch complete with dugouts and reserved for the use of teams playing in the Teesside / Durham Alliance League.*
- 5. That football pitches are allocated on an annual basis to the teams requiring pitches of a certain facility standard – i.e. it is the team which is allocated and not the football club(s) themselves. Football clubs which run multi-teams are responsible for finding / securing pitches appropriate to their standard. Many of these may be at*

Grayfields or other Council facilities, they may be at recreation pitches owned and managed by others.

- 6. All teams which book to play at Grayfields Recreation Ground will have equal access and use of the ancillary facilities available i.e. car parking, changing rooms, showers, toilets and social room etc.'*

2.4 The report made the following recommendations for approval: -

'The Portfolio Holder was recommended to approve:

- i) The allocation of the individual pitches at Grayfields continue to be allocated on an annual basis.*
- ii) That Grayfields Enclosure be reserved for teams gaining entry into a Tier 7 league (i.e. currently the Wearside League). A maximum of two teams can be accommodated on a back to back basis.*
- iii) **To further improve facility standards and ensure teams currently playing at Tier 8 level (i.e. Teesside Leagues and Durham Alliance League) have appropriate facilities, a new railed pitch is provided at FP2 in time for the 2006/07 season should this be necessary.***
- iv) Long term development proposals continue to secure an additional two full size pitches on the Grayfields Oval in association with a retained Cricket Square.'*

3 BACKGROUND TO THIS REVIEW OF THE 2006 PITCH ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

3.1 At the start of August 2009 it became apparent that demands by teams to use the Railed Pitch was increasing with potential fixture conflicts. Four teams expressed an interest in using the Railed Pitch facilities and a consultation exercise was undertaken with all users to establish their qualification to use the facility.

3.2 The four teams are as follows:

- **St Frances 2000 Ladies** (playing in the North East Regional Woman's League),
- **Hartlepool Town FC** playing in the Teesside /Durham Alliance League
- **Hartlepool Rovers FC** (playing in the Sunday Morning League),
- **Hartlepool Supporters FC** (playing in the Sunday Morning League).

3.3 Teams were asked to provide evidence of their requirements for a Railed Pitch and associated facilities. In addition the County Development Manager of the Durham County Football Association was contacted to clarify the FA's requirements for leagues below Tier 7.

3.4 The consultation resolved the following:

- North East Women's League (**Hartlepool St Francis**) do require a pitch barrier (not necessarily permanent).
- The open age adult leagues in Hartlepool and **Hartlepool Town FC** (play in the Durham Alliance League) do not require any form of pitch barrier as part of the league requirements/rules nor do they require them in any cup competition unless they get to the semi final stage.
- Secretary of the Sunday Morning League in which **Hartlepool Rovers FC** and **Hartlepool Supporters FC** play also clarified that the Sunday Morning Leagues do not required Railed Pitch facilities at present (2009 season). The Secretary did raise a more general problem of pitch availability suggesting there were occasionally not enough pitches to accommodate the fixtures they arranged. As a consequence the League had chosen to use the Railed Pitch to get extra capacity, unfortunately this usage has not it appears been agreed through the Mill House booking system and clashes had occurred.
- An added complication is the status of **Hartlepool Town FC** which does play in the Teesside Leagues and Durham Alliance League. The 2006 Portfolio Report would suggest they are entitled to play on the Railed Pitch. The FA clearly state they do not require Railed Pitch facilities unless they get to a semi final stage.

4. RESULTANT PITCH ALLOCATION ISSUES

4.1 The following list is not intended to be exhaustive but it does illustrate some of the main pitch allocation issues:

4.2 **Qualification of teams to use facility:** The report of the 20th June 2006 '*Development of Grayfields recreation ground and allocation of pitches appropriate to achieving quality standards*' clearly sets a bar that teams wishing to make use of the Railed Pitch have to achieve to qualify to be considered for possible inclusion on the list of bookings for use of the pitch. This bar is defined as '**reserved for the use of teams playing in the Teesside / Durham Alliance League**'. This definition is clearly too restrictive and if applied would undoubtedly bring the Authority foul of diversity issues. In light of this the Section is *firstly* looking for teams requesting access to these pitches facilities to present evidence that the particular league and associated tier system in which they are affiliated requires them to play upon a Railed Pitch.

4.3 **Pitch capacity (time).** Obviously should the Mill House booking system receive a large number of genuine requests to use the Railed Pitch a new issue comes to the fore, that of capacity. There are clearly a finite number of 'windows' within a weekend to book fixtures on a pitch for example Saturday am, Saturday pm, Sunday am, Sunday pm.

For this potential conflict in pitch demand to be managed and access proportioned out appropriately the teams qualifying for access to the pitch facilities need to comply with Mill House's official booking process.

- 4.4 **Pitch durability.** With increased use comes the challenge of maintaining the Railed Pitch in a playable condition. There is no alternative Railed Pitch available. Clearly despite whatever 'traditional' use of the Railed Pitch has occurred it is not sensible in light of increased genuine demand from teams that have met the qualification standard for use of the pitch to allow non-qualified teams to continue using the pitch especially when it would be to the detriment of qualified users. There are other pitches available on site and access to the Greyfields Pavilion is available to all users when the official Mill House pitch booking procedure is used.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve:

- (i) At present (2009 season) only the North East Women's League (**Hartlepool St Francis**) is officially qualified from a league perspective to use the Railed Pitch
- (ii) *Note* that the 2006 Portfolio Report recommendation relating to teams who play in the Teesside Leagues and Durham Alliance League would appear to be problematic in that it incorrectly promotes **Hartlepool Town FC**, who currently according to the evidence provided do not officially require a railed pitch, to a position where they are being allowed access to a facility they do not require. This issue needs to be resolved and the fairest way would be to rescind the teams rights to this Railed Pitch and amend the qualification requirements to use it as recommended in this report, see recommendation 5 below.
- (iii) That all teams booking pitches at Grayfields must use the official pitch numbering system and go through the Mill House booking system. Supplying a fixture listing for HBC staff to decipher is not, and will not be acceptable.
- (iv) That assignment of all pitches below Tier 7 status including the Railed Pitch will be on the basis of: (i). **Qualification of teams to use facility**, (ii). **Pitch capacity (time)**, (iii). **Pitch durability**. If the Mill House booking system suggests the pitch is going to be potentially under used during a season it will, at its discretion, be able to temporarily allow the Railed Pitch to be rostered into the fixture lists of other leagues but this must not be at the detriment of teams officially qualified to use the facility. The only way this can be done is through the use of the Mill House booking system which will co-ordinate.

- (v) That leagues and teams work within the parameters of the Mill House booking system so that cases of insufficient pitches being available for fixtures leagues who are not qualified to use the railed pitch want to play can be minimised. Specifically if capacity issues can be identified early on alternative plans can be put in motion. This might include assignment of the Railed Pitch as discussed in (5) above, or staggering kick-off times on other pitches, or playing the match on other facilities away from those at Hartlepool.

CONTACT OFFICER: Chris Wenlock, Parks and Countryside Manager

CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

24 November 2009



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: NATURISTS REQUEST AT SEATON CAREW

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Portfolio Holder agreement to the determination of the request to designate a part of the beach at Seaton Carew as a naturist beach.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

To report the outcome of ongoing discussions and identify the differences in beach use and suitability for such designated use. The report makes a firm recommendation.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Beach Lifeguarding and Leisure Services are the responsibility of the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio – 24 November 2009

6. DECISION REQUIRED

6.1 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to;-

- Decline the request to designate the beach at Seaton Carew for naturist purposes.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: NATURISTS REQUEST AT SEATON CAREW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Portfolio Holder agreement to the determination of the request to designate a part of the beach at Seaton Carew as a naturist beach.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Portfolio meeting held on 29 September 2009 consideration was given to the request from the Three Rivers Naturist Club to designate a part of the beach at Seaton Carew in the vicinity of the North Gare / Seaton Golf Club as a naturist beach. Following extensive consultation with the Foreshore Group, Natural England and Cleveland Constabulary consideration was given to the positives and negatives of designating a signed area of beach for naturist activity.
- 2.2 On balance the conclusion was that the beaches within Hartlepool Borough are all 'urban' in nature and are very well patronised for a very wide range of use. This was considered to be an overriding consideration when assessing the request for the establishment of a naturist beach and one which would tend towards precluding the beach at Seaton to be suitable for the requested needs. The Three Rivers group expressed themselves satisfied that such diverse needs did not preclude nor dissuade them from a continued desire to give the request full consideration. The meeting recommended that further investigation be made into a more remote area of beach known as the Blue Lagoon, south of the North Gare and that a site visit be arranged prior to determining a final decision.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE

- 3.1 Contact has been made with Natural England regarding the potential for a site visit and it has been confirmed that the beach and dunescape south of the North Gare is subject to a 50 year lease to Natural England from the relevant landowners for the preservation and management of the area as one of Hartlepool's premier Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is designated a National Nature Reserve. Whilst the area is available for open access by members of the public enjoying the managed nature reserve, Natural England have confirmed that they do not see this area being compatible nor acceptable as a potential designated naturist beach.
- 3.2 On this basis a site visit became irrelevant and this potential alternative area is no longer available as an option.

- 3.3 The request, therefore, returns to the original concept and geographic area, that to the north of the North Gare. It is your Officers opinion that the beaches at Seaton are very much in the public domain and are very close to the visitor facilities at the south end of Seaton. The beach is very well used for a wide range of sporting recreational and family use and it is on balance inappropriate to propose designating a naturist beach in this locality.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The request has been given wide consideration and I am pleased that in general the public opinion as expressed in a number of recorded statements was one of 'live and let live', however, this has to be balanced by the location and accessibility of the beach in question by a wide range of visitors including those with young families who may not welcome a public area of beach being allocated to this formal use. It could act to dissuade regular existing beach users from partaking of their current beach enjoyment.
- 4.2 The Police have expressed some concern at the potential for such activity to attract a voyeuristic element which could change the nature of the visitor appeal to Seaton. On balance this request, if supported, would not necessarily add to the resorts range of attractions but could be an active detriment to greater public attraction and appeal.
- 4.3 In conclusion it is suggested that this is simply an inappropriate request for this particular stretch of beach. It is understood that the club have made approaches to other coastal authorities and it is suggested that they may have success in their search at more appropriate location.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to:-
- Decline the request to designate the beach at Seaton Carew for naturist purposes.

Contact Officer: John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder

24th November 2009

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: LOAN OF 'GALA DAY AT NEWLYN, 1907' BY
STANHOPE FORBES

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the loan of the painting 'Gala Day at Newlyn' by The Penlee Gallery in Cornwall.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report focuses on the possible loan of painting 'Gala Day at Newlyn' by The Penlee Gallery in Cornwall for 'A Cornish Childhood' exhibition' May 29-4 September 2010.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Museum issues.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non-Key

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio 2009

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To approve the loan of the painting for the exhibition.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: LOAN OF 'GALA DAY AT NEWLYN, 1907' BY STANHOPE FORBES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the loan of the painting 'Gala Day at Newlyn' by The Penlee Gallery in Cornwall.

2. BACKGROUND

- Hartlepool Arts and Museums Service has been approached to loan the painting 'Gala Day at Newlyn' for a temporary exhibition focussing on the lives of children in Cornwall.
- The exhibition is at The Penlee Gallery in Penzance, Cornwall from May 29 to 4 September 2010.
- The exhibition will be utilising the collections of Penlee House, supplemented with other key works by Newlyn School artists borrowed from both public and private galleries.
- The exhibition aims to use paintings of the lives of children in Cornwall to give an overview of how children spent their days, whether at school, work or play.
- Only this year this painting returned from display at the Penlee Gallery where it was a welcome addition to a temporary exhibition, hence the request for the painting to be loaned once more.
- The oil painting 'Gala Day at Newlyn' depicts crowds gathering around the docks for the gala parade in Newlyn, Cornwall. There is a parade of girls carrying flags walking into the foreground. In the background are sailing boats and a lighthouse. The artist Stanhope Forbes was born in Dublin but spent most of his life living in Newlyn. He founded a School of Painting there in 1899. This painting was presented to the museum by Sir William Gray in 1920 on the founding of the Gray Art Gallery and Museum.
- There are no plans to put this painting on display in the Museum of Hartlepool or Hartlepool Art Gallery during the period of the exhibition at The Penlee Gallery.
- The loan will help raise the profile of the collections of Hartlepool Museums Service.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the loan of the painting for the exhibition

CONTACT OFFICER: David Worthington, Museums and Heritage Manager

CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

24 November 2009



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2009/2010 – 2ND
QUARTER MONITORING REPORT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 in the first two quarters of the year.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The progress against the actions contained in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/10, and the second quarter outturns of key performance indicators.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Member has responsibility for performance management issues in relation to Culture, Leisure & Tourism.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio – 24 November 2009

6. DECISION REQUIRED

Achievement on actions and indicators be noted

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2009/2010 – 2ND
QUARTER MONITORING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the key actions identified in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/2010 and the progress of key performance indicators for the period up to 30 September 2009.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Child and Adult Services Department includes Community Services, reporting to Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder, and Adult Services, Adult Education and Supporting People reporting to the Adult and Public Health Portfolio Holder, and Children's Services Portfolio reporting to Children's Services Portfolio.
- 2.2 The Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 sets out the key tasks and issues with an Action Plan to show what is to be achieved by the department in the coming year. The plan also describes how the department contributes to the Organisational Development Improvement Priorities as laid out in the Corporate Plan. It provides a framework for managing the competing priorities, communicating the purpose and challenges facing the department, and monitoring progress against overall Council aims.
- 2.3 In 2008-09, the Council introduced a new electronic Performance Management Database (Covalent) for collecting and analysing corporate performance. The database collects performance information detailed in the Corporate Plan and the five Departmental Plans. The aim is that the database will eventually collect performance information for all levels of the Council, including individual service/operational plans in each department.

3. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 This section looks in detail at how the Department has performed in relation to the key actions and performance indicators that were included in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan for this Portfolio.

- 3.2 On a quarterly basis officers from across the department are asked, via the Performance Management database (Covalent), to provide an update on progress against every action contained in the Departmental Plan and, where appropriate, every Performance Indicator.
- 3.3 Officers are asked to provide a short commentary explaining progress made to date, and asked to traffic light each action based on whether or not the action will be, or has been, completed by the target date set out in the Departmental Plan. The traffic light system is: -

Red	Action/PI target not completed or Action/PI intervention required
Amber	Action/PI progress acceptable
Green	Action/PI target on track or Action/PI target achieved.

- 3.4 Within the Adult & Community Services plan there were a total of 32 actions and 22 Performance Indicators identified in the Departmental Plan. Table 1, below, summarises the progress made, to the 30th September 2009, towards achieving these actions and PIs.

Table1 – Community Services (CLT portfolio) progress summary

	Adults & Public Health Services	
	Actions	PIs
Green – completed	0	2
Green – on track	31	6
Amber - acceptable	1	3
Red – Intervention required	0	0
Red – not completed	0	0
Annual	0	11
Total	32	22

- 3.5 A total of 31 action (97%) has been completed or achieved, and a further 1 (3%) are on track. There are no actions which are not expected to be achieved.
- 3.6 It can also be seen that 8 (36%) of the Performance Indicators have been highlighted as being achieved or expected to hit the target. There are 3 (14%) of the Performance Indicators where progress is acceptable. There are no PI's that are not expected to hit the year-end target. Additionally, there are 11 (50%) indicators that are only collected on an annual basis and therefore no updates are available for

those indicators (this includes those completed as part of an annual survey).

Table2: Community Services Actions – intervention required.

Ref	Action	Milestone	Comment
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NONE.

Table3: Community Services PI's – intervention required.

Ref	PI	Milestone	Comment
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NONE.

3.7 Up to the end of the second quarter, Community Services have 31 out of 32 actions in the departmental plan on track to be completed - these include:-

- Carry out building improvements to the Central Library to improve quality of user experience and embed the RFID self-issue system (CORP CL02.3).
- Implement the Hartlepool Playbuilder initiative (CORP CL02.4).
- Delivery Renaissance Programme to improve access to Museum Service and develop new audiences (CORP CL03.3).
- Work closely with key partners and groups to deliver programmes of activity to meet the sport and physical activity needs of the Hartlepool community increasing participation by 1% (CORP CL03.4).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that achievement of key actions and second quarter outturns of performance indicators are noted.

CONTACT OFFICER: Trevor Smith,
Principal Management Information Manager
(Support Services)

CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

24 November 2009



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: BEACH LIFEGUARD SEASON 2009

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Portfolio Holder on the Beach Lifeguard season for 2009.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

2009 saw another successful season for Hartlepool Borough Council's Beach lifeguard Service. Lifeguards were recruited using a range of advertising with all posts filled successfully. There were no reported aquatic rescues, however, there were 2 major first aid incidents and another 502 reported other incidents varying from minor first aid to providing general safety advice.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Lifeguards fall within the responsibility of the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio, 24 November 2009.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To note the report on the Lifeguard Season 2009

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: LIFEGUARD SEASON 2009

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Portfolio Holder on the recent lifeguard season

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2004 The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) was commissioned to undertake a beach safety assessment identifying various aspects of running a beach lifeguard service, based on this report Hartlepool Borough Council decided to reinstate the lifeguard service for Seaton Carew and the Headland.
- 2.2 The decision was taken when the lifeguards were reinstated that the service should not only operate for the schools summer holidays but should also include May and Spring Bank Holidays and the weekends from May Bank Holiday up to the school summer holidays from 10 am to 6pm.
- 2.3 The level of cover recommended by the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) is:
- Seaton Carew** (between the North Shelter and the Coach Park)
Four lifeguards with five at peak times, inclusive of at least one supervisor
- Headland Beaches** (Fish Sands and Block Sands).
Two lifeguards at each site, inclusive of one supervisor.

3. RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

- 3.1 Advertising for the vacancies was undertaken through the normal outlets, but in addition a radio advert and flyers were produced. Monitoring was not undertaken at the time of recruitment regarding the success of the different forms or advertising, however, all lifeguard positions were filled successfully.
- 3.2 The Lifeguard Staffing Levels required to provide the cover as recommended by the Royal Life Saving Society was:
- | | |
|--|----|
| - Beach Lifeguard Supervisors | 4 |
| - Beach Lifeguards (inclusive of 2 relief Supervisors) | 13 |
| - Casual Beach Lifeguards | 8 |
- 3.3 This years recruitment campaign was very successful, as a result we interviewed 32 candidates 5 of which we unsuccessful and 2 successful candidates were unable to attend the required training.

3.4 All the Lifeguards and supervisors are trained to:

- RLSS National Beach Lifeguard Qualification (NBLQ)

Additionally the Supervisors / Relief Supervisors are also trained in:

- RYA VHF Radio Certificate
- Quad bike Training
- Towing of trailers training
- First Aid at Work training (FAW)
- 4 x 4 off road training
- Defibrillator training

All specified rescue watercraft (jet ski & sled) users were either holders of the RYA Personal Watercraft (PWC) certificate or achieved equal standard. The Beach Safety Officer attended a RYA PWC instructor's course prior to the lifeguard season enabling us to provide this training in-house, however, we were unable to certify candidates as RYA PWC qualified because we are not a certified RYA training centre.

3.5 FAW and NBLQ courses were delivered by the Beach Safety Officer in April, another NBLQ course was delivered in May, and all candidates successfully passed.

3.6 All Lifeguards have to undergo compulsory in-house training to practice skills learned and keep up to date with any changes in protocols. It is recommended by the Royal Life Saving Society that lifeguards undertake a minimum of two hours training per month incorporating a variety of the elements required on a rolling programme. Staff training was conducted every Friday morning.

4. BASES

4.1 The lifeguard cabin was returned to Seaton Carew on its original site after the Rocket House Toilet Block was demolished and the area landscaped.

4.2 The service also has access to Rocket House at Seaton Carew which acts as a welfare, changing and storage base due the Bus Station rooms being unavailable. Whilst not ideal, it provided a useful asset.

4.3 At the Headland two portacabins were positioned, one at Fish Sands and another at Block Sands, these are temporary units hired in.

5. INCIDENT STATISTICS

- 5.1 There were 504 reported incidents varying from minor first aid to giving general safety advice. These are detailed below:

Seaton incidents	No. Of Times 2008	No. Of Times 2009
Dogs with owners in ban area	344	298
Inflatable warnings	12	5
Horses in patrol area	17	10
Jet ski users in bathing area	8	1
Minor first aid	14	13
4 x4 vehicles on the beach	14	11
Parental advice	10	0
Other safety advice	7	2
Other incidents	5	1
People consuming alcohol	6	2
Swimmers out of bathing area	0	2
Quads on the beach	7	2
Missing children	1	2
Incoming tide warnings	0	1
Surfers in bathing area	0	0
Jelly fish warnings	3	0
Anti social behaviour	1	0
Police calls	2	0
Red flag warnings	38	0
Marine stings	0	2
Fishing in bathing area	1	1
RSPCA calls	1	0
Power boats in bathing area	1	1
Motor bikes on beach	1	1
Needles found on beach	2	0
Missing person	1	4
Wading rescue	0	0
Major incidents	1	0
Major First aid	2	1

Headland	No. Of Times 2008	No. Of Times 2009
Dogs with owners in ban areas	43	104
Parental advice	1	3
Other safety advice	6	3
Minor first aid	25	18
People consuming alcohol	29	1
People jumping/diving off breakwaters	18	4

Jelly fish warnings	0	0
Other incidents	0	3
Anti social behaviour	15	1
Red flag warnings	0	0
Jet ski / power boat users in bathing area	7	3
Incoming tide warnings	0	0
Inflatable warnings	1	1
Jumping/diving from town wall	1	0
Swimmers in shipping channel	2	1
People jumping off Pilot Pier buildings	0	0
Wading rescues	0	0
Fishing in bathing area	0	0
Missing children	0	0
Marine stings	0	0
Needles found on beach	4	1
Major first aid	0	1
Major rescue	0	0

- 5.2 Although there were a number of visits from the Enforcement Officers and additional dog signage placed directly on to the beach, the main advice lifeguards provide is for dog owners in the ban areas. This season the dog control orders were implemented and enforcement officers did issue some fines; however there was a significant increase of dog owner in the ban areas at the Headland, this was a result of the inclusion of the paddling pool and play area at Block Sands within the Dog Control Orders (previously only the beach was within the dog ban area) resulting with having to educate dog owner that they could no longer walk their dog in this area.
- 5.3 There were some problems with dog signage, mainly at Seaton because there is a considerable area to transport the signs, signs were damaged in transit and also some signs were stolen because the signs needed to be placed out of sight from the main patrol area (mainly at the Coach Park area). Additionally we received a couple of complaints that the signage was unstable, falling over during high wind conditions, an alternative will be looked at for next season.
- 5.4 Although the weather was an improvement from the previous season, again this season as a whole has been a quiet one, we had zero red flag warning at Seaton as apposed to 38 last season, this was due to the improved weather / sea conditions and flying the red and yellow flags most of the season. In addition to incident statistic, estimated numbers of beach/water users within the lifeguard patrol areas are recorded every hour, this seasons records show that numbers very rarely exceeded 150 users with the maximum approximately 650 users at Seaton on a good weather day. However, the lifeguards have dealt with the following major incidents:

Seaton

- August 24th – A lady approached the lifeguards on the beach complaining of feeling unwell and collapsed onto the ground, she was then checked and found to be breathing so she was placed in the recovery position and an ambulance was called. The lady then started to recover and it was found she had a serious known medical condition.

Headland

- July 11th – An intoxicated male entered the water at Fish Sands, after ignoring safety advice from the lifeguards not to enter the water, he then slipped on the rocks and suffered a head injury, an ambulance was called and the casualty was taken to hospital.

6. EVENTS

- 6.1 July 6th – 10th – Again primary schools were offered the chance to participate in a rookie lifeguard training/competition session at Seaton Carew. Events included a rope throw, flag race and use of nipper boards (small soft top version of a rescue board). Overall the event was a success with lots of positive feedback from the schools that participated and good press coverage, the winning team at the end of the 5 days was Rift House Primary School who was presented with a trophy.

7. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- 7.1 Due to the expected increase of visitors during the Tall Ships Race next year, beach lifeguard provision will be increased during this time, especially on the Parade of Sail.
- 7.2 The Beach Safety Officer successfully attended a RYA PWC instructors course in order to provide this training in-house, however because we have to be an RYA approved training centre no formal qualification can be given. We aim to look into the requirements of the approved centre status.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- i) Note the contents of the report

CONTACT OFFICER: Debbie Wood, Beach Safety Officer

Background Papers

Cabinet Report 22/3/04 Beach Lifeguarding