

# **CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

24 November 2009

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

## **Present:**

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Chris Wenlock, Parks and Countryside Manager  
David Worthington, Museums and Heritage Manager  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

## **12. Grayfields Recreation Ground – *Parks and Countryside Manager***

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

Further to the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio report of 20 June 2006, this report sought approval to amend recommendations accepted in that report 'Development of Grayfields recreation ground and allocation of pitches appropriate to achieving quality standards' and further clarified how pitch allocation at the recreation ground would be prioritised in the future.

### **Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

At the start of August 2009 it became apparent that demands by teams to use the Railed Pitch at Grayfields was increasing and there were potential fixture conflicts. Four teams had 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.

The report highlighted the findings of the consultation and provided recommendations for the future allocation of pitches at the Grayfields Recreation Ground.

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. 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 team's rights to this Railed Pitch and amend the qualification requirements to use it as recommended in the report.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased that improvements were to be made with the pitch allocation and that consultation had taken place with the teams involved. He thanked the department for the time and effort put into resolving the issue.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder agreed:-

- Only the North East Women's League (Hartlepool St Francis) was officially qualified from a league perspective to use the Railed Pitch during the 2009 season.
- Hartlepool Town FC's right to use the Railed Pitch be rescinded as currently they were being allowed access to a facility they do not require unless they reach the semi final of a cup competition.
- 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 Hartlepool Borough Council staff to decipher was not acceptable.
- That the assignment of Pitches below Tier 7 status including the Railed Pitch would be on the basis of:-
  - a) Qualification of teams to use the facility
  - b) Pitch Capacity (time)
  - c) Pitch durability

If the Mill House booking system suggested that the pitch was going to be potentially under-used during a season, it would 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 could be done was through the use of the Mill House booking system.

- That Leagues and teams work within the parameters of the Mill House booking system so that cases of insufficient

pitches being available for fixture by leagues who were not qualified to use the Railed Pitch could be minimised. Specifically if capacity issues could be identified early, then alternative plans could be put in motion. This may include assignment of the Railed Pitch or staggering kick off times on other pitches or playing the match on other facilities away from those at Hartlepool.

### **13. Naturists Request at Seaton Carew – *Parks and Countryside Manager***

#### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

#### **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.

#### **Issues for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder**

At the Portfolio meeting of 29 September 2009 consideration had been given to the request from the Three Rivers Naturist Club to designate 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 Police, consideration had been given to the positives and negatives of designating a signed area of beach for naturist activity.

Contact had been made with Natural England on holding a site visit and they had confirmed that the beach and dune-scape south of the North Gare was subject to a 50 year lease for the preservation and management of the area as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and was designated a National Nature Reserve. Natural England therefore have said that they did not see this area being compatible nor acceptable as a potential designated naturist beach.

The request therefore returned to the original concept of the beach to the north of the North Gare. Officer opinion was that the beaches at Seaton Carew were very much in the public domain and close to the visitor facilities at the south end of Seaton Carew. The beach is very well used for a wide range of sporting, recreational and family use and on balance it was thought inappropriate to propose designating a naturist beach in this locality.

The request had been given wide consideration and there was some general public opinion of 'live and let live', however this had to be

balanced by the location and accessibility of the beach by a wide range of visitors. It could act to dissuade regular existing beach users.

The Portfolio Holder said that the initial request had appeared to cover the area from the car park to the North Gare which was well used by dog walkers and family groups and that these current users may well be put off by naturist use on the beach. He said that he had listened to public opinion which was largely that it was inappropriate.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder declined the request to designate the beach at Seaton Carew for naturist purposes.

## **14. Loan of 'Gala Day at Newlyn, 1907' by Stanhope Forbes – Museums and Heritage Manager**

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

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

### **Issues for Consideration**

The report focussed on the possibly loan of the painting 'Gala Day at Newlyn' to the Penlee Gallery in Cornwall for 'A Cornish Childhood' exhibition which will run from 9 May 2010 until 4 September 2010. It was established that this painting which had been presented to the museum by Sir William Gray in 1920 was not currently on display in the Authority.

The Portfolio Holder expressed concern that much of the town's art collection was not currently displayed and that residents and visitors to other towns would have an opportunity to see the painting whilst Hartlepool residents/visitors did not. The Museum and Heritage Manager said that long term plans were to have part of the art gallery reserved for the permanent collection in order that residents and visitors to Hartlepool could view this. He added that it was planned to borrow paintings from the Royal Collection and the Tate Gallery to exhibit during the Tall Ships 2010 event.

The Museum and Heritage Manager agreed to see whether it would be possible to display 'Gala Day at Newlyn' prior to it being loaned to

the Penlee Gallery in order that the residents of Hartlepool could view it although he added that it was currently part of a recent catalogue programme and could be viewed on line.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the loan of the painting for the exhibition.

**15. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/2010 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Monitoring Report**  
*– Museums and Heritage Manager*

**Type of Decision**

Non key.

**Purpose of Report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/2010 in the first two quarters of the year.

**Issues for Consideration**

The progress against the actions contained in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/2010 and the second quarter outturns of key performance indicators.

Of the 32 actions within the plan, 31 had been completed or achieved and 1 was on track. There were no actions not expected to be achieved. 8 of the Performance Indicators had been highlighted as being achieved or expected to hit the target. There were 3 where progress was acceptable. None of the Performance Indicators were expected not to achieve the year end target.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the achievements on actions and indicators and thanked those concerned in achieving these.

**16. Beach Lifeguard Season 2009 – Parks and Countryside Manager**

**Type of Decision**

Non key.

## **Purpose of Report**

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

## **Issues for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder**

2009 saw another successful season for Hartlepool Borough Council's Beach lifeguard service. Lifeguards had been recruited using a range of advertising with all posts filled successfully. The service had not only operated during the school summer holidays but also include the May and Spring Bank holidays and the weekends from May Bank Holiday up to the school summer holidays from 10.00 am until 6.00 pm. There were four lifeguards (including a supervisor) at Seaton Carew covering the area between the North Shelter and the Coach Park, and two lifeguards (including one supervisor) covering the Headland beaches between the Fish Sands and Block Sands. All Lifeguards had received appropriate training.

There were no reported aquatic rescues, however there were 2 major first aid incidents and another 502 reported incidents varying from minor first aid to the provision of general safety advice.

This season, there had been a significant increase of dog owners in the banned areas at the Headland. This was as a result of the paddling pool and play area at Block Sands becoming subject to Dog Control Orders (previously only the beach was within the dog ban area) resulting in having to educate dog owners that they could no longer walk their dog in the area. There were also problems with dog signage, mainly at Seaton.

An event had been held for primary schools where children had been offered the chance to participate in a rookie lifeguard training/competition at Seaton Carew. This had been a success with lots of positive feedback from the participating schools and good press coverage

Due to the expected increase of visitors during the Tall Ships Race, beach lifeguard provision would be increased and the Authority was working with other emergency services to provide a co-ordinated approach.

It was also hoped to look into the requirements of achieving an approved centre status for the Royal Yachting Association Personal Watercraft Certificate.

## **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the report.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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