

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities held at
12.30 pm on Thursday, 22 July 2021

Present:

Members: Councillor AS Khan (Chair)
 Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

D Cahalin-Heath, Licensing and Regulation
G Carter, Law and Governance
G Hood, Streetpride and Greenspace
R Masih, Licensing and Regulation
C Sinclair, Law and Governance

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2021 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Response to a Petition - Potters Green Park - Request for a Children's Play Facility

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services which responded to a petition bearing 298 signatures which had been submitted to the City Council in October 2020. The petition was sponsored by Councillor Ruane, a Henley Ward Councillor and requested that the Council provide a children's play facility on the field between Woodway Lane and Shilton Lane.

The Petition read ""We the undersigned petition the Council to request a park with play equipment for children (swings, slide, climbing frame etc) on field between Woodway lane and Shilton Lane adjacent to Woodway lane cemetery, historically there was a play area located on this site for the children of Potters Green". Councillor Ruane was unable to attend the meeting, however, the petition spokesperson did attend the meeting and spoke in support of the petition.

The report stated that a children's play area had existed at this location a number of years ago as suggested by the petitioners. The facility had been removed many years ago due to repeated vandalism and complaints from residents on Woodway Lane whose houses looked onto the site. An image taken in 1994 showing that most of the play area had virtually all gone was attached as an appendix to the report. Also appended to the report was a plan showing the location of play facilities within the same catchment area.

Having considered the report, the presentation and the submission by the petition spokesperson, the Cabinet Member noted the concerns raised by petitioners and also recognised the need for local, safe, play areas for children and the health benefits enjoyed by having a play facility that can be easily accessed by local residents. However, the costs of such a play facility, estimated at approximately £150,000 far outweighed the funding available by the Greenspace Service. It was, however, reported that some external funding may be available to constituted residents' groups and suggested that the petition spokesperson work with his local councillors and officers to investigate the possibility of accessing any available funding streams.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

- 1. Notes the content of the petition and the concerns of the petitioners**
- 2. Notes that a play facility had been built by a developer and located at Eaglestone Way new housing development off Shilton lane.**
- 3. Notes that the cost of providing a children's play facility had been estimated at approximately £150, 000**
- 4. Notes that the Greenspace Service did not have the resources to provide a new children's play facility at this location and that this would be subject to securing external funding.**
- 5. Notes that, as part of the Planning Application for the New Elmfield Farm Development on Wigston Road, should permission be granted the developer had been asked to provide a new children's play facility on the development.**

4. Gambling Act 2005 - Revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 -2025

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services which sought approval to consult on the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 - 2025 under the Gambling Act 2005. A copy of the draft revised policy was attached as an appendix to the report.

Under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005 the Council's Statement of Gambling Policy had to be renewed every three years. The current Statement of Gambling Policy came into effect on 31st January 2019 and a review must therefore be completed. There was a requirement in the Act for the Council to publish and advertise the revised Statement of Gambling Policy at least 4 weeks before, by 3rd January 2022.

The Gambling Policy produced by the Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005 would be relevant for all licensing decisions taken by the Council as the Licensing Authority over three years commencing on 31st January 2022.

The general principles of the Gambling Policy remain the same and the document was still centred around the Gambling Act's three licensing objectives, namely:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Before amending the policy for a further three-year period, licensing authorities were required to carry out a wide consultation process. In addition, it must consult by law, the Council has authority to include in the process any individuals or organisations it deems appropriate.

The Responsible Authorities (statutory consultees - Gambling Commission, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service, Planning, Environmental Health (functions in relation to pollution to the environment or harm to human health) Safeguarding Children Board, HM Revenue & Customs), Community Safety team and Public Health would be consulted on the draft revised policy.

The public consultation exercise would begin on the 2 August 2021 for a 6-week period and finish on the 13 September 2021. The revised policy complied with updated Gambling Commissions guidance and regulations. It had been developed with all 6 Warwickshire Licensing Authorities (Warwickshire County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council), although each authority had adapted the policy to suit the needs of their area and profile.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities notes the draft revised Statement of Gambling Policy and authorises the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services to carry out the consultation as detailed in the report.

5. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

6. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 12.50 pm)