

## **Adults, Leisure & Culture Select Committee**

A meeting of Adults, Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Thursday, 17th August, 2006.

**Present:** Cllr J A Fletcher(Chairman), Cllr M Cherrett, Cllr M Frankland, Cllr M Perry, Cllr R Rix, Cllr M E Womphrey

**Officers:** Mrs S Daniels and Mrs J Hubbard (CESC); R Bradley (SS); G Birtle and Mrs T Harrison (LD)

**Also in attendance:** Cllrs Mrs L Johnson and G Turner (Egglescliffe Parish Council representatives).

**Apologies:** Cllr K Dixon, Cllr K Faulks, Cllr Miss B Inman, Cllr T Laing, Cllr J Lynch, Cllr Mrs A Norton and Cllr M Smith; Mr A Maxwell (Diocesan Representative); Mr P Beach and Ms S Moloney (Parent Governor Representative).

### **449 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal/non prejudicial interest due to being a member of Egglescliffe Parish Council.

### **450 Draft Minutes of meeting held on 26th July 2006**

CONCLUDED that the minutes would be presented at the next meeting.

### **451 Performance Review Issues**

Members considered whether there were any performance issues to discuss.

CONCLUDED that there were no performance review issues to discuss.

### **452 Review of Preston Park and Hall**

Evidence was provided by Egglescliffe Parish Council representatives, Head of Performance and Business Services and the Care for Your Area Service Manager.

Egglescliffe Parish Council representatives advised that:

- They were interested in the future of the park
- The cost of museum entrance should be reduced or done away with as other museums were free and people with low income could not afford the collective cost of travelling to the park, paying entrance to the museum and treats. Many people went to the park but did not go into the museum.
- Drainage of the ground was poor
- Cycleways needed improving and would be better situated via Quarry Road rather than Yarm Road and be more direct and were not equipped for young people
- A footbridge would make a difference
- There should be facilities for young people i.e. a skateboard park
- Access to the riverside walk was difficult for pushchairs and the disabled

Members discussed the issues raised and were advised that the museum entrance fee for children had been changed. The fee was now 60 pence and

the ticket could be used throughout the year.

In relation to the suggestion of a skateboard park, Members observed that even though younger people already used the park the introduction of facilities like a skateboard park could generate unwanted anti-social behaviour. If such facilities were provided there would be the need to employ people to supervise and maintain the area.

The Head of Performance and Business Services addressed the Committee and provided the background to the draft framework as a way of introduction.

The framework was drawn up as a result of consultations on the back of the number of events which had caused problems relating to parking and access and was formulated in discussions with Cabinet Members and Ward Councillors.

All events carried out by the events team, follow the framework and other events organisers were encouraged to follow the guidelines. Preston Park and Hall were a vital resource for the Borough, attracting many visitors from all areas. The framework provided a general outline formalising how events were planned in the Park. However, it should be viewed as a general guidance and not be overly restrictive so that it prevented Stockton from putting on a major event in the future simply because the 'quota' had been reached. A major event held at the Park could be a significant regional attraction contributing to the local and regional economy.

The Head of Performance and Business Services answered questions given to her from the Committee prior to the meeting:

Q1. How did the team plan and prioritise events to meet the needs and wants of the customer? Events were generally prioritised with regards to budget availability, what worked, was popular and previously tried and tested elsewhere. Their main objective was to provide an all-inclusive events programme which allowed access for all at nil or low cost.

Events were planned 12 – 18 months in advance in order to engage and reserve any new/alternative features and entertainment. The lead-in was particularly relevant when new events were planned to ensure that full risk assessments were undertaken so that events continued to be safe.

The Events Team used Viewpoint, Viewpoint Youth Panel, the Park Management Group and the Council's own on-site survey during the events themselves to consult with the public and park users.

Q2. What feedback systems existed for the local community to comment on events? In addition to the above, the Council's Comments, Commendations and Complaints system was utilised to capture comments and feedback. The Council also received feedback through Stockton's web site.

Q3. The Chairman asked how the out-of-hours contact number for events in the Park was publicised to neighbours, other than in the Events leaflet. The Head of Performance and Business Services outlined that the Events Team were considering approaching the Surveillance Centre to arrange for their number to

be given for all dates, so that they could pass any messages on to the appropriate Events Team Officer.

A comment had recently been submitted through the 'First for Festivals' website on the fire engine and vintage car rally. The website was a facility that provided visitors to the site the opportunity to write a review on any event attended, which was for events throughout the Country.

The Meeting became inquorate at this point and it was agreed that any further evidence be recorded and circulated to members for information.

CONCLUDED that the evidence be noted.