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07 March 2006

To: The Chairman and Members of the
COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
(Councillors Howarth, Griffin, Hepplewhite,
Hopgood, Kinghorn, Moderate, Norman,
Robinson, Taylor, Walton, Wolstenholme and
Young)

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the **COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL** will be held in the Town Hall,
Durham, on Wednesday 15 March 2006 at 5.30pm

BUSINESS

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of Meeting held on 14 February 2006 (Attached)
3. Review of Council House Repairs

Mr A Moscardini - Head of Property Services, Mrs M Goodrick - Customer Services Manager and Councillor D Southwell - Portfolio Holder for Housing will be in attendance.

4. Review of Decent Homes Standard
5. Business for Next Meeting
6. Any Other Business

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

Minutes

Community Services Scrutiny Panel

Town Hall, Wednesday 14th February 2006 at 5.30pm

Present: Councillors Howarth (in the Chair), Hopgood, Kinghorn, Moderate, Norman, Walton, Wolstenholme and Young

Also Present: Councillors Cowper, Gibbon, Kellett, Marsden, McDonnell, Smith, Stoddart and Turnbull

Gavin Scott	- Policy and Regeneration Manager
Dave Parsons	- Durham City Cricket Club
Dave Allan	- Durham City Cricket Club
Bryan Stone	- Durham City Cricket Club
Richard Rodden	- Durham City Football Club/Soccarena
Chris Coe	- Durham City Football Club/Soccarena

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Griffin, Hepplewhite, Robinson and Taylor

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st February 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Representations from Local Sports Clubs

Members were advised that the Cricket Club are actively developing participation amongst young people, and have womens and girls teams. They also have a development partnership with Durham University. One of the problems they face with their younger members, however, is that often on reaching the age of 18, they will leave to go to university, and do not return.

The Club has been helped by the success of the County side; more people are wanting to become involved in the sport. They also have volunteers who are currently working towards coaching qualifications, but this is a time consuming process. Ideally, the Club would like to do more work with schools, but are limited by the availability of members/volunteers.

Durham City Cricket Club has one pitch which is used daily to its maximum. In addition they have an off pitch practise area. Members noted that cricket squares require much work to maintain. The Club also have essential equipment available for any new members, or people who wish to 'try out' the sport without having to go to great expense to obtain the necessary equipment. The Panel felt that this was an excellent idea.

Durham City Football Club was linked to Soccarena (an indoor football facility). Between the Football Club and Soccarena, a successful coaching scheme for young people operated, including girls teams. In addition, a ladies league used the facilities. As Soccarena is a new build, the changing facilities are good for both sexes. In older clubs, including Durham City Cricket Club, facilities are having to be adapted to accommodate the involvement of female players

The facilities were well used at weekends and evenings, however they were keen to increase use throughout the daytime. They would like schools to use their facilities, and were able to provide coaches and access to facilities, at a price which would cover their costs. Unfortunately, schools had transport difficulties, and this made it prohibitively expensive for them.

The Football Club are looking to replace the pitch at the Archibald's Stadium with an artificial one to increase the opportunities for use. The current playing surface could really only support two games per week. Also, the Club was looking to improve its community facilities.

At the Chairs suggestion, Members agreed that it would be useful to send a copy of the Panel's draft report to both clubs for their comments before forwarding it to Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair thanked all speakers for attending.

Note: Councillor Gibbon left the Meeting at 6.25pm

4. Any Other Business

- (a) Members considered the possibility of byelaws being used to regulate behaviour on the Council's playing pitches. Information on how byelaws are made was circulated to Members, and it was agreed that possible recommendations in the Panel's report could include:-
- Inspection and review of signage currently in place at playing pitches and open spaces
 - Investigation into the making of appropriate byelaws to control behaviour such as riding of motorcycles on pitches
 - The drawing up of a protocol for use of the Council's pitches, and which users should agree to abide by.
- (b) Members were in agreement that site visits to various clubs/facilities throughout the District would be useful. Arrangements would be made in due course.
- (c) It was agreed that at the Panel's Meeting on March 15 2006, Members would review the Panel's previous report on Repairs, which had been approved by Cabinet in December 2005. It was requested that the Head of Property Services, and the Customer Services Manager be in attendance at the Meeting.
- (d) Members agreed to consider the Panel's draft report on the Playing Pitch Strategy at their April Meeting. This Meeting would also be used to scope the Panel's forthcoming Scrutiny on Traveller Sites.

The Meeting terminated at 6.40pm