

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
30 January 2006
DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

Portfolio Member	Nature of Decision	Date
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 284). The amount due is in the sum of £3400, which is set by the Government as a compensation payment for personal upset caused by the compulsory displacement from his home. Recommend that payment is made but with a deduction of arrears first	28.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 286). The amount due is in the sum of £3400, which is set by the Government as a compensation payment for personal upset caused by the compulsory displacement from his home. Recommend that payment is made but with a deduction of arrears first	28.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 286). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as she was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that a payment of £1000 is made to the applicant	28.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 282). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment which is in the sum of £1,400.00 as he was displaced from a 3 bedroom house. Recommend a payment of £1,400 be made to the applicant	31.10.05
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Newton Moor Construction enquiring if the Council would consider granting an easement over Council land at Wylam Street, Bowburn. Recommend that subject to contract and conditions and the payment of Council's legal costs and Surveyor's fee and the reinstatement of the land and full indemnities to protect the Council's interests the application for easement be granted.	26.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 284). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment which is in the sum of £1,000 as she was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that a payment of £1,000 be made to the applicant.	28.11.05
Councillor Reynolds	An application received from H J Banks Developments enquiring if they can purchase an area of Council land	5.12.05

	<p>at Station Road, Ushaw Moor. The land is intended for use as part of a larger site for development as housing. They are in the process of securing adjacent land to this end.</p> <p>Recommend that subject to the applicant complying with certain conditions the application be approved`</p>	
Councillor Rae	<p>Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,141.00 divided as follows:- Julie Finley T/A Fanci Nails by Julie - £141 Carly Wilson T/A Carly Wilson - £500 Marie Carter T/A M C Communications - £500</p>	6.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>Application from Mr Shankland enquiring if he could purchase an area of Council land to the rear of his property which is currently used by the adjacent flats as bin storage. Mr Shankland intended to use the land for building a property across both on his current garden and the proposed area containing a number of flats fronting on to Hallgarth Street. This has been revised to smaller area and a proposed double garage and access.</p> <p>Recommend that the application be refused because of access rights etc.</p>	8.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>Application received from Mr Pollin enquiring if he could purchase an area of Council land adjacent to his property for use as additional parking.</p> <p>Recommend that the application be refused because of access rights etc.</p>	8.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>Application received from Miller Homes Ltd, North East Region enquiring whether the Council would allow occupation of land at Bedale Close, Belmont. Miller Homes Ltd intends to use the land as a site compound for the duration of the site development.</p> <p>Recommend the application be refused for covenant and access reasons</p>	9.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>To consider an application by Haslam Homes Ltd to occupy an area of land adjoining the Durham Villages REgenertaion Site at Carr Avenue Brandon for use as a compound. Recommended to approve the application by Haslam Homes Ltd as a site compound for a period of 18 months and a licence fee of £50. Access to the site must be taken across the adjoining DVR site and not over open land to the north and west of the compound area.</p>	16.12.05
Councillor Southwell and Councillor Wynn	<p>Application received in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 283). The applicant currently has arrears of £720.14. the amount due is in the sum of £3400. Recommended to deduct the arrears from the final payment.</p>	15.12.05
Councillor Southwell	<p>Application has been made in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (ref 283) The applicant has asked for the fixed payment which is in the sum of £1000 as he was displaced from a one</p>	13.12.05

	bedroom bungalow. Recommended that the payment be made	
Councillor Wynn and Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of home loss payment as a result of the council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 287). The applicant has rent arrears of £136.51. The amount due is in the sum of £3400. Recommended to deduct the arrears from the payment of £3400.	17.12.05
Councillor Southwell	An application has been made in respect of a disturbance allowance as a result of the council compulsorily being displaced from his home (Ref 287). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as she was displaced from a one bedroom bungalow.	6.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	Appropriation of sites at the rear of Falkous Terrace and Front Street, Witton Gilbert and held under the Local Government Act 1972 under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990	14.12.05
Councillor Reynolds & Local Ward Members	Concerns regarding 1 Maple Court, Brandon and the occupant storing building materials on Council owned land. Occupant has submitted an application to erect scaffolding and temporarily occupy the Council land. Recommend that the Licence be granted for Mr Thomas to erect scaffolding and to temporarily occupy the land	14.12.05
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of home loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 285). The amount due is in the sum of £3,400. Recommend that a payment of £3,400 be made to the applicant.	22.12.05
Councillor Southwell & Councillor Wynn	Application received in respect of Home Loss Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the application from his home (Ref 288). The applicant has rent arrears of £448.41. The amount due is in the sum of £3400. Recommend that arrears be deducted from the payment of £3400	5.1.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 288). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as he was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that payment of £1000 be made.	4.1.05
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Haslam Homes Limited to occupy an area of land adjoining the Durham Villages Regeneration site at Carr Avenue, Brandon for use as a compound. Recommend approval of the application for a period of eighteen months and at a Licence Fee of £50. Access to the compound area must be taken across the adjoining DVR site and not over open land to the north and west of the compound area.	16.12.05
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of Home Loss Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 289). The amount due is	5.1.06

	in the sum of £3400. Recommend payment of £3400 be made to the applicant	
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 289). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as he was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that payment of £1000 be made.	5.1.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 285). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1200 as he was displaced from a two bedroom house. Recommend that a payment of £1200 be made to the applicant	22.12.05
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,305.50 divided as follows:- Sarah Sheehan T/A Shiny Happy People - £305.50 Nurul Aini Tajuddin T/A Everyday English (EVE) - £500 Trevor Hughes T/A TH Bathroom Fitting - £500 Approve payment of £1,305.50	17.1.06
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000.00 divided as follows:- Michelle Ashworth T/A Sourcetec - £500 Nicola Oates/Pat Clark T/A Dunelm Sanctuary - £500 Approve payment of £1,000	17.1.06
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £482 from Steven Dent T/A Steve's School of Motoring Approve payment of £482	17.1.06
Councillor Rae	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £500 from Amanda Capes T/A Amanda Capes. Approve payment of £500	17.1.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 273). Recommend payment of £2,867.74 be made to applicant	11.1.06

Report of Economic Scrutiny Panel

Interim Report

Leisure Services -- 5 year Strategic Plan

1. Background:

1.1 Economic Scrutiny Panel were tasked with looking at Leisure Services five year strategic plan. A presentation was given to the Panel by the Leisure Services Manager outlining the strategy and the five high level objectives:

- Social Inclusion
- Health
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Access to Sport
- Education

1.2 These objectives align themselves to the Council's vision for Flourishing Communities.

1.3 It was stated that there were four basic areas to be scrutinised:-

- Stocktake
 - Improving and investing in existing facilities
- How do we work with young people?
- Exercise Referrals
 - Funding
 - Marketing
 - Partnerships
- Accessibility
 - Social Inclusion
 - Pricing Policy
 - Disability Act.

2. Stock-take:

(Meeting dates – 28/06/05 & 26/07/05)

2.1 The Leisure Services Manager gave a report on facilities and activities currently available. The Leisure Services Manager stated that activities attracted 600,000 visits per year. This figure is broken down by sports hub:-

➤ Abbey	172,000
➤ Coxhoe	73,000
➤ Deerness	113,000
➤ Sherburn	72,000
➤ Meadowfield	97,000
➤ City Baths	77,000

2.2 Many of the original targets were exceeded at the Sports Centres.

Activities are monitored, where an activity becomes unpopular it is usually dropped, however, there are some activities that may appear to be not well used but there are socially important reasons for keeping them. The Programme of events is continually evolving and is constantly refreshed.

2.3 Leisure management systems could be used to monitor members' visits to the leisure centres by issuing a plastic card. Also, Passport to Leisure is available to those in receipt of state benefits which will log member trends. 15,000 card holders are required to make this scheme successful.

The Leisure Services has a long-term objective to open up many opportunities to young people up to the age of 25 years. Also, it may be a possibility of setting up youth clubs in the leisure centres.

2.4 The number of visits to the leisure centres has increased as this is a value for money service.

2.5 Members raised concerns that the sports centres were not accessible to all and that many villages wished to use their communal halls or community centres. A lot of work had been carried out by the Community Development team who are in the process of creating a database of what facilities are available. The Database is expected to be ready by December, 2005.

3. Provision for Young People:

(Meetings dates: 27/09/05, 25/10/05)

3.1 The Community Safety Officer and the Leisure Services Manager gave an outline of 'hotspots' for anti social behaviour and the part leisure plays in alleviating the situation.

3.2 The Community Safety Officer advised the panel that an operations group made up of the Youth Engagement Service, Police, Primary Care Health, Education Bodies and Durham City Council meet regularly to discuss problems and problem areas.

3.3 The Leisure Services Manager reminded the Panel that it is young people who are the victims of anti social behaviour. Using Positive Futures initiative Leisure Services engage with young people.

3.4 Youth clubs have been launched at Coxhoe, Sherburn & Meadowfield with Abbey and Deerness to follow.

3.5 Young people become frustrated that they have nowhere to go, the Leisure Services Manager informed the Panel that the Children's Fund was working to address what young people really want.

3.6 Members of the Panel indicated that there is a core element of young people who cause problems but when encouraged to take part in events this has a detrimental effect on the young people who do not cause problems.

3.7 Panel Members asked that a mini appraisal of where youth clubs are, What they are doing and the numbers attending could be carried out.

4. Identified Problems

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|---------------------|---|
| • Geographical | -- Current facilities are remote for many young users |
| • Safety | -- Perceived problems with youths between villages |
| • Lack of Provision | -- Provision scarce and not uniform |

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That the City Council operated sports centres continue to act as main hubs for the development of various leisure activities, youth provision and new leisure initiatives for the district. In addition that Leisure Services work to make the provision of such facilities and activities at more accessible and at reasonable rates to all members of local communities. The continued expansion of the services offered to the public should be tailored to meet the needs of the population of the district.
- 5.2 That other local community assets identified from the stock-take are communicated to members of the public within the villages thus encouraging greater involvement of members of the public and also increase the positive image and culture of proactive consultations with the Authority. That the use of communal halls and community centres are actively encouraged as centres of delivery to provide more activities to outlying areas or to areas where access to sports centres may prove difficult. Also, to take programmes offered in the sports centres into community centres and communal halls although these may have to follow an amended programme of contents and timetable.
- 5.3 That greater synergy between Leisure Services and Community Safety be established to provide up to date information on 'hot spot' areas and develop positive communications and programmes for interaction with young people. That Community Development to liaise with Leisure Services relating to the outcomes of The Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group. Also that a representative from Leisure Services be nominated to attend Community Safety meetings to enable a more direct, efficient and effective role for the Authority. This process has begun with representatives from Leisure Services attending Community Safety meetings.
- 5.4 That Community Development carry out a consultation to determine the types of activities requested, the possible venues and the frequency of the activities. Results of the consultation should be passed on to Leisure Services for their information, to be then assessed as to feasibility and realistic worthwhile delivery. Care should be taken as not to be seen to be making promises or commitments at these initial stages, public perception of the Council can easily be damaged.