

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	The Board of Trustees of the Recreation Ground, Bath		
MEETING DATE:	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2010	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	7
TITLE:	The Recreation Ground, Bath - Update on General Management issues	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E2140	
WARD:	All		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			
List of attachments to this report: Letter from Charity Commission dated 09/06/2010			

## 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This paper gives the Trustees an update on general management issues at the Recreation Ground.

## 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Trust Board is asked to:

2.1 Note the contents of this report.

2.2 Decide whether or not to continue to allow balloon flights to operate from the Recreation Ground.

2.3 Decide whether or not approve the improvement works requested by the Rugby Club, subject to Charity Commission approval where required.

2.4 Decide whether or not to challenge the Charity Commission decision to leave in place orders dated 28<sup>th</sup> February ,2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006.

## 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Any financial implications have been noted within the content of this report.

## 4 THE REPORT

### 4.1 Balloon Flights

The Trustees requested clarity about the arrangements currently in place regarding balloon flights taking off from the Recreation Ground. Previously rights to take off from the Rec had being granted by the Council's parks department as part of a general licence covering various Council owned sites.

With effect from this Financial Year the Rec has been removed as a site from the general licence and balloon operators are required to book individual flights on the Rec

for a fee of £35. The Trustees are requested to consider whether they wish to continue this arrangement.

#### 4.2 Planning Consents

The Rugby Club have submitted 4 planning applications in respect of works required to improve the operating performance and or spectator experience at the Recreation Ground on match days. Should the applications be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority the Club requires the approval of the Trustees in order to proceed with the works.

The Trustees are requested to consider the planning applications and decide whether they are minded to approve the following works:

- a) Re-configuration of the East Stand to slightly increase height in order to improve the rake/sight lines and capacity by 400.
- b) Replace scoreboard with a screen. (Same size and location).
- c) Ringside 2 to be slightly extended and partly covered with a fabric roof. (Alteration to fencing to incorporate additional portable toilet trailers during season as discussed).
- d) Changing Ringside 5 to accommodate temporary seating for disabled spectators.

Where required the relevant approvals from the Charity commission will be sought prior to implementation.

#### 4.3 Grounds Maintenance

A review is being undertaken to consider how the grounds maintenance activity undertaken by the Rugby Club can be better co-ordinated with the activity undertaken by the Council on behalf of the Trust. The review will consider what opportunities might exist to better surface management and sharing of storage space and or equipment. Improving the already cordial arrangements between the ground maintenance teams should identify efficiencies. The review will report findings to a future Trust Board meeting.

#### 4.4 Letter from the Charity Commission re existing orders

The Charity Commission have written advising that it is satisfied that the orders dated 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 (effectively vesting the Rec in the Official Custodian for Charities) and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 (requiring prior approval from the Charity Commission for land disposals) should remain in place. A copy of the letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> June is attached in Appendix 1. The Trustees have 3 months to challenge this decision should they choose to do so and are requested to decide whether or not a challenge should be mounted.

### **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

5.1 Not applicable for this report.

### **6 RATIONALE**

6.1 General Management fulfils the terms of the Trust.

### **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 All information is contained within the report.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

8.1 Open Spaces and Parking Services, Bath and North East Somerset Council.

## **9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

9.1 General Management fulfil the terms of the Trust.

## **10 ADVICE SOUGHT**

10.1 Open Spaces and Parking Services, Bath and North East Somerset Council.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Glen Chipp - Trust Board Adviser - 01225 394567</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	