

## REGULATORY COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 2) on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

#### Part I

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1.	Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any)	
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#### Local Government (Access To Information) (Variation) Order 2006

The reports contained in Part II of the Agenda are not for publication as the Committee is considered likely to exclude the public during consideration thereof as they contain information relating to any individual and the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1 and 3).

#### Part II

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Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (copy herewith).

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Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats on request.

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E. WAUGH,  
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre,  
SUNDERLAND.

15<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

**At a meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2013 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor A. Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Bell, P. Gibson, Macknight, Richardson, D. Smith, Thompson and Wiper

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 4 – Sunderland Stadium of Light – Restriction on General Safety Certificate

Councillor Bell declared that he was a Season Ticket holder for the Stadium of Light

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Dixon, Emerson, Errington, Farthing, Mordey and Waller.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, Part I (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Sunderland Stadium of Light – Restriction on General Safety Certificate**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on a recommendation that a limit be imposed upon the number of tickets made available by Sunderland Association Football Club to the visiting fans of Manchester United and Everton on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 respectively. Ken Scott Development manager advised members that the changed procedure for the Manchester United game last year had some success, however the away supporters have been moved this season creating a new dynamics, It is considered the restriction proposed which is in fact a small increase is what can safely be managed for both games.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that:-

- a. Approval be given to the setting of a limit of 2379 visiting fans for the fixture with Manchester United on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 and 2649 visiting fans for the fixture with Everton on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 on the grounds of authorising the Club to take all necessary precautions for the reasonable safety of spectators at these games as per Condition 4.
- b. The Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to follow such procedure and issue such notice needed to obtain compliance with the proposed restriction.

### **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – The Licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles – Raising Awareness of Age Policy**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Committee's agreement with regard to the provision of additional information about the Council's Age Policy relating to the licensing of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Tom Terrett, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, presented the report and advised that appended to the reports were drafts of what the new forms could look like with information detailing the age policy being set out clearly at the start of the forms.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that he felt that the proposed documents were excellent and would help to address Members concerns over vehicle history. He asked whether any consultation with the trade had been carried out. Mr Terrett advised that this meeting was the first time anyone had been provided with the draft documents. There was no requirement for consultation with the trade due to it not being a change in policy. There were regular meetings with the drivers associations and they would be informed of the changes.

3. RESOLVED that the proposed methods for providing additional information to licensees in relation to the Council's Age Policy for vehicles be agreed.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

4. RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered likely to include the disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual and the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information). (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1 and 3).

(Signed) A. WILSON,

Chairman.

**Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

Additional minutes in respect of further items are included in Part II.

**At a meeting of the SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP held in the STADIUM OF LIGHT on WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:-**

**Sunderland City Council:**

K. Scott - Development Manager (in the Chair)  
P. Baxter - Principal Chartered Building Control Surveyor  
G. Fisher - Technician  
D. Noon - Principal Governance Services Officer

**Sunderland AFC:**

P. Weir - Safety Officer  
P. Weymes - Facilities Manager

**Supporters Association:**

S. Simpson

**British Transport Police:**

S. Davies - Sergeant  
G. Wayne - Sergeant

**Northumbria Police:**

M. Hobson - Sergeant

**Sports Grounds Safety Authority:**

S. Storey - Inspector

**St. John Ambulance:**

J. Purvis

**North East Ambulance Service:**

P. Stoddart

## **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service:**

G. Yates

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Sue Storey and Sgt Wayne who were attending their first meeting of the SAG

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Paula Kadiri and Robert Dobson.

#### **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2012**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Mr Weir advised that he had broached with the stewards, Sgt Davies' idea to develop fans liaisons among those who were regular rail travellers. To date there had been no response however he would raise the issue again.

#### **4. General Safety Certificate for 2012/2013**

The Chairman advised that he was moving towards Certification aligned to risk based operations management and away from prescription. He asked that he be advised of any updates required before renewal of the current certificate.

Mr Weymes advised that all the clubs documentation and procedures lying behind the Safety Certificate had been produced in the style of a manual and were available electronically on the Club's computer systems.

#### **5. Fixtures For 2012/13**

Consideration was given to the fixture list for 2012/13. It was noted that yet again Sunderland would have a home fixture on boxing day. This would be the 11<sup>th</sup> occasion this had happened over the last 12 seasons.

Mr Simpson referred to the fact there would be at least 6 fixtures during December, a time of the year when money was scarce for many supporters.

## **6. Standing in Seated Areas – Match V Manchester United.**

The Chairman advised that the clubs had been innovative in their approach to the problem however ultimately it had not proved successful with the vast majority of the Manchester Utd fans standing for the duration of the match.

In response to an enquiry from Ms Storey about the approach taken, the SAG was advised that following an initial meeting of the Council's Regulatory Committee which had agreed a limit of 1700 visiting supporters, a number of meetings and exchanges of correspondence had taken place between Sunderland and Manchester United football clubs which had resulted in a revised safety management plan for the fixture being produced by the Club.

The plan detailed the close collaboration between the Clubs particularly in respect of tighter levels of control at point of sale of tickets to visiting fans. In previous games the allocation of tickets to visiting Manchester United fans was by way of a lottery involving around 30000 applicants.

The revised safety management plan intended that priority was given to a "loyalty pot" within the Manchester United fan database. It was argued that the "loyalty pot" status was cherished by those fans and as a result it was felt that the selling of a significant proportion of tickets to that group would attract a more compliant crowd than in the past. To reinforce the message a letter was issued by Manchester United at point of sale to remind loyalty pot members of the consequences of not observing ground regulations and safety certificate requirements which would include the removal of loyalty pot membership status.

Tickets to the loyalty pot group were located in the lower tier. By placing loyalty pot members within those "front of house" seats it was expected that not only would they be compliant and sit in the seats provided, but also that their actions would have a positive impact upon those fans behind them. An additional resource of up to 100 Manchester United stewards was put at the Clubs disposal to assist in the match day operation. Sunderland also refined its ticket selling policy to allow for rows of seats to be kept vacant within the visiting allocation to allow for access by stewards and police into the heart of the crowd if necessary and the removal from sale of all end of row seats which would help to prevent aisles becoming blocked if fans did stand during the match.

Mr. Weir contended that plan had achieved a modicum of success in that aisles had not become blocked however most fans had stood. The Chairman stated that the SAG and the Club should not just give up on the issue. It would need to continue to be innovative and engage with visiting clubs in striving to find a solution.

## **7. Relocation of Visiting Supporters**

Peter Weymes briefed the Group on progress to relocate visiting fans to the North Stand Upper. In response to an enquiry from Ms Storey the Chairman advised that the depth of field of visiting fans would be lessened but have a



wider lateral spread over the seating deck than the narrower deeper block currently utilised in the South Stand, however the raking of the seating deck would be steeper. With regard to access for visiting coaches they would be driven directly to the rear of the North Stand for visiting supporters to alight at the turnstiles. A number of options were being considered for those occasions where 40 plus coaches were expected (only 4 or 5 games per season) including the possibility of parking coaches in the yellow car park with supporters escorted to the North Stand.

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Mr Simpson stated that he had spoken to many supporters about the matter and was not aware of any complaints. There were supporters in the Blacks Cats Bar who felt that they had ended up with better seats having been decanted from the North Stand Upper to the seats directly in front of the bar. Mr Weir advised that the Club had consulted and engaged with supporters from the earliest possible stage in the relocation process.

In response to an enquiry from Mr Purvis, Mr Weymes advised that the Family Area was to be located in the South East corner of the Stadium. Mr Purvis asked if it would be possible to look at the North Stand Upper in respect of the location of the first aid post and Mr Weymes replied that they could do this immediately following the meeting.

#### **8. Update on Works to the Wearsheaf Gyrotory.**

The Chairman advised that works were currently being undertaken in the Portobello Lane area which would have no effect on the concerts. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> July test running of the gyrotory without lights would begin. Also from that date, on the route travelling from Wearmouth Bridge along North Bridge Street, the right hand turn into Roker Avenue would be closed.

With this in mind, Mr Weymes advised that he would ask people attending the Sunderland University Graduation ceremonies to access the Stadium via Wessington Way.

#### **9. Stadium Accident Reporting**

Mr Weir advised that there had been 15 incidents of which only 2 had required a hospital visit. Mr Purvis confirmed that there were no trends, with the incidents being general in nature.

#### **10. Sports Grounds Safety Authority Issues**

Ms Storey advised that the Authority had carried out a lot of work for UEFA with regard to the European Championships. This included providing training for the safety officers at venues in Poland and the Ukraine together with the provision of match inspections at the tournament. The Sports Grounds Safety Authority were also assisting in preparations for the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics in addition to providing information on best practice to Motor

Sports, Rugby, cricket and Horse Racing authorities. The Authority was looking to develop a disability access audit and clarification on the Green Guide.

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **(i) Digital Screens**

Mr Weymes advised that the Club was planning to install digital screens at both ends of the Stadium to replace the existing scoreboards. It was hoped these would be in place for the first home game of the season although this couldn't be guaranteed.

### **(ii) Time of Future Meetings**

In order to assist members who had to travel some distance to attend meetings and avoid the need for an overnight stay, it was agreed that future meetings of the SAG would start at 10.30am.

### **(iii) Peter Weymes**

The Chairman informed the SAG that Peter was celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday today and on behalf of the Group offered him best wishes and many happy returns.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the Stadium on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at 10.30 a.m. followed by a Table Top exercise.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) K. SCOTT,  
Chairman.

**At a meeting of the SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP held in the STADIUM OF LIGHT on WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 10.30 a.m.**

**Present:-**

**Sunderland City Council:**

K. Scott - Development Manager (in the Chair)  
D. Young - Resilience Officer  
D. Turnbull - Senior Resilience Officer  
R. Dobson - Deputy Manager - Aquatic Centre  
P. Wood - Governance Services Officer

**Sunderland AFC:**

P. Weir - Safety Officer  
P. Weymes - Facilities Manager  
M. Smith - Deputy Safety Officer  
N. Mackay - Deputy Safety Officer  
L. Coley

**Supporters Association:**

S. Simpson

**Northumbria Police:**

D. Pryer - Chief Superintendent  
B. Storey - Chief Inspector  
G. Jones - Sergeant

**Sports Grounds Safety Authority:**

S. Storey - Inspector

**St. John Ambulance:**

A. Trotter

## **North East Ambulance Service:**

P. Stoddart

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Sue Storey and Sgt Gary Jones.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Paul Baxter, Mark Hobson, Gary Yates, John Purvis and Joe Hope.

#### **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2012**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 be agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

Page 5 Paragraph 10 – Sports Ground Safety Authority Issues

Ms Storey advised that she had commented that Sunderland Football Club may wish to develop a disability access audit.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

In relation to an enquiry from the Chairman, Mr Weir advised that the idea to develop fans liaisons among those who were regular rail travellers appeared to be a non starter due to the lack of response received.

In relation to Page 5 – Item 11, Peter Weymes advised that both scoreboards had been removed and it was hoped that the digital screens would be erected and live for the Liverpool game.

#### **4. Standing in Seated Areas – Fixture v Liverpool**

The Chairman advised of the decision of the Local Authority's Regulatory Committee to reduce the Liverpool fans allocation of tickets to 2,400 in accordance with the clubs contingency plan for the match.

#### **5. Match v Newcastle United on 21 October 2012**

Chief Superintendent Dave Pryer advised that he would be heading up the operation and had appointed an experienced match commander. The relocation of the away fans presented some challenges but the Police were working with the club on the contingencies for this. A number of site visits from the Police had been made to familiarise themselves with the new model of the stadium.

Consideration was being given to viability studies on transporting away fans but a lot depended on the transport arrangements from Newcastle Utd. Lessons would be learned from the last derby match when a great deal of public transport was used.

Chief Superintendent Pryer also advised that one element of the partnership which had not gone to plan had been the over ruling of a Northumbria Police objection to the granting of a licence to a pub requesting earlier opening times and expressed concerns that the decision by Committee to permit the extended hours of operation could result in applications by other City Centre establishments to open earlier. He further informed that the Police will be appealing the decision of Committee.

In response to the Chairman's enquiry Mr Weir advised that the same terms and conditions in respect of ticket sales from Newcastle Utd would apply in that only 1 ticket could be purchased per season ticket holder giving tighter control at point of sale.

Mr Weir also advised that there were a number of options on the layout of the North Upper Stand with a possible plan to withhold rows 1-5. There was a possibility that rows 3-5 could be allocated but would only be sold to concessions and Over 65's. This was still to be confirmed.

Chief Superintendent Pryer commented that discussions had taken place and he had no issues with the options Mr Weir had proposed.

The Chairman commented that we would wait and see what plan Mr Weir would come back with and would be guided by the Clubs contingency plan before preparing a report to the Councils Regulatory Committee to effect an amendment to the Clubs General Safety Certificate.

Mr Weir advised that the stadium bars would be kept as they were but the signage for Quinns Bar may be taken down to prevent it from being defaced.

The Chairman commented that he welcomed any measures to keep the away end as neutral as possible. Mr Weir advised that there would be Newcastle orientated videos playing in the away end. Chief Superintendent Pryer agreed that the signage in the away end could be deemed provocative.

Robert Dobson, General Manager of the Aquatic Centre enquired if the heavy duty fencing would be erected for the match. Mr Weir advised that it may be used if considered necessary by Northumbria Police. The Chairman advised that this would not affect public access.

## **6. Relocation of visiting supporters – progress report**

The Chairman commented that due to the Reading game being postponed there was no progress report relating to a Premier League fixture but Mr Weir advised that the Morecombe Capital Cup game had not produced any significant problems.

Chief Superintendent Pryer commented that good work had been performed between the Police and the Club in carrying out the plans in place and the Morecombe game had been ideal to implement scenario tests as opposed to the more difficult Liverpool game which was approaching.

## **7. Update on works to W heatsheaf gyratory**

The Chairman gave a brief update on the situation in the area.

## **8. Stadium Accident Reporting**

There were no issues to report.

## **9. Sports Grounds Safety Authority Issues**

Sue Storey commented that due to the recent cabinet reshuffle there was a new minister overseeing their work and it would be interesting to see the impact her views would have on the organisation.

Ms Storey advised that the Metropolitan Police were starting a project to look at policing of the London Clubs, a move towards 'back to basics' in terms of levels of policing at matches and how to improve intelligence. These may be issues the rest of the country could be interested in.

Chief Superintendent Pryer advised that the Metropolitan Police have quite a number of clubs in the London area whereas it was his role to provide consistency around the Sunderland and Newcastle clubs but it would be interesting to see the outcomes of the Metropolitan police project.

The Chairman also raised the issue of releasing the Clubs Operation Manual as a public document under the freedom of Information Act and commented that we would have to be mindful of this and a discussion in the future may be required, but a file sharing confidential website, similar to the process used during the music concerts may be the way forward.

## **10. Any Other Business**

A general discussion ensued and The Chairman wished to take the opportunity to thank Mark Hobson for his assistance and wished him every success in his future role.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the Stadium on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 at 10.30 a.m.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) K. SCOTT,  
Chairman.

**At a meeting of the SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP held in the STADIUM OF LIGHT on WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:-**

**Sunderland City Council:**

K. Scott - Development Manager (in the Chair)  
P. Baxter - Principal Chartered Building Control Surveyor  
R. Dobson - Deputy Aquatic Centre Manager  
S. Mitchell - Technician, Network Operations  
P. Lewins - Network Operations Manager  
D. Noon - Principal Governance Services Officer

**Sunderland AFC:**

P. Weir - Safety Officer  
P. Weymes - Facilities Manager  
L. Coley - Club Secretary  
M. Smith -

**Supporters Association:**

S. Simpson

**Northumbria Police:**

D. Gould  
P. Orchard  
G. Jones

**Sports Grounds Safety Authority:**

S. Storey - Inspector

**St. John Ambulance:**

J. Purvis

**North East Ambulance Service:**

Y. Raimbault - NEAS Match Commander



## **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Dave Turnbull, Gary Yates, Dave Pryer and Steve Neill.

## **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2012**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **i) Disability Audit.**

Mr Weymes and Mr Weir advised that the Disability Access Audit had been carried out and that the Club's auditors would be on site to ensure that everything was up to speed.

## **4. Standing in Seated Areas**

The Chairman stated that the problem was continuing to grow both at Sunderland and nationally. The FSA were asking the Authorities to look again at allowing standing to return.

The Chairman advised that the SAG and the Football Club were concerned with 3 main issues arising from standing in seated areas:-

- i) Safety (increased risk of accidents and the potential for progressive crowd collapse),
- ii) Blockage of the aisles and gangways (preventing access by the Stewards and the Emergency Services),
- iii) Customer Care (supporters not wishing to stand or unable to do so for long periods because of age or disability being prevented from watching the game).

To mitigate these problems, proactive measures had been taken including restricting the number of tickets offered to visiting clubs whose supporters had persistently stood at Sunderland and at other stadiums.

Of growing concern at Sunderland was the fact that the pocket of persistent standers, (previously confined to the South West Corner), was now spreading to the new home supporters section behind the South Stand.

With the relocation of the visiting fans to the North Stand upper, a lot of the former Blackcats bar supporters had chosen to move to the South Stand, only to find they were surrounded by supporters who refused to sit. This had generated a number of complaints.

CCTV was being used to identify persistent standers. Warning letters had been issued and where the standing had continued, season ticket had been deactivated for one game with the holder notified accordingly. If the standing continued thereafter, the ban would be increased. Discussion ensued as to how other supporters could be made aware that the empty seats were as a result of the suspensions rather than supporters failing to turn up.

With regard to the fixtures against Newcastle United and Middlesbrough, it had not come as a surprise that being local derbies, both sets of away fans stood for the duration of the match.

Ms Storey stated that Sunderland had always been proactive in trying to tackle standing in seated areas. Additional measures other clubs had tried included behaviour charters although their effect had been patchy. Some had also tried relocating persistent standers to the rear and although it tended to half the problem it also gave the appearance that standing was being condoned.

## **5. Relocation of Visiting Supporters**

Mr. Weymes briefed the Group on progress following the relocation of visiting fans to the North Stand Upper. 3 new digital cameras had been purchased that had pan, tilt and zoom facilities as part of the migration from analogue technology and the review of CCTV across the Stadium.

The viewing platform for disabled supporters and been installed and was working well.

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Mr Weymes advised that the split between the level 3 and level 1 bars was not causing problems. In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Ms Storey advised that rather than being relaxed, it was more likely that the prohibition of alcohol on the seating decks and terraces at football grounds would be extended to other sports, with particular attention being paid to cricket.

From a supporters perspective, Mr Simpson stated that he had heard some complaints of missiles being thrown from the upper tier down onto the home supporters seated below. With regard to movement of Newcastle fans in and out of the new away section, before and after the game, this had worked well and he commended the Club and Northumbria Police on their operation.

The Chairman echoed Mr Simpson's comments. It was a testament to the planning undertaken by the Police and the Club that in such a potentially volatile game only 6 arrests had been made.

## **6. Report on recent Development Squad fixture v Newcastle United.**

Mr Orchard advised that Northumbria Police had undertaken a review of the planning process for football matches in the Force area. If invited to Police a game the appropriate command and control would be deployed. Being a

Development game, the match versus Newcastle fell outside the previously agreed Framework. It was the view of the Police however that the same rationale and thought processes with regard to match planning should be applied to games which fell outside the categorisation.

Mr Weir advised that he would have been happy to have had the previously agreed Police presence of a sergeant plus 7, but had felt the extra deployment was not appropriate for the level of risk posed by the fixture. He had therefore decided to operate on a stewards only basis for the game.

Mr Orchard advised that the Police had maintained a presence outside the Stadium and in its environs and had operated against a group of 40 – 50 rival fans engaged in disorder. No arrests had been made however a number had been stopped and searched.

With regard to the Police review, Mr Orchard advised that it was about being more professional in the service provided by the Force. If invited into the Stadium it would be on the basis of a Commander together with a Serial Sgt plus Comms.

Ms Storey stated that this was at odds with the majority of Football Clubs who were looking to lessen the impact of Policing on football.

#### **7. Update on Works to the Wheatsheaf Gyrotory.**

Mr Lewins briefed the meeting on the current position with regard to the work on the Wheatsheaf Gyrotory. The temporary lights were now switched off and the junction was under signal control. The timings for the lights were not yet finalised. The situation would be monitored and adjustments made in the light of experience. Loop cutting work was still required and would commence in January. This would give the junction greater capacity. The signals at the Grange and St Mary's Way junctions would be upgraded to enable them to link to the Wheatsheaf. It was envisaged that the junction would be fully operational by April with the Tesco store opening in May 2013.

#### **8. Stadium Accident Reporting**

Mr Weir advised that there had been 2 heart attacks at the stadium since the last meeting. A supporter had also suffered a stroke at the match versus Newcastle and the prompt action of the medical team had been life saving.

Mr Raimbault believed that it was best to have the crowd doctor on the ground as it bought the patient and the paramedics time straight away.

#### **9. Sports Grounds Safety Authority Issues**

In addition to briefing the SAG on the new address for the Authority, Ms Storey raised the issue of training for Stewards. She referred to the recommendation in the Green Guide that Stewards should be in possession of or working towards a level 2 qualification in Spectator Safety. Given the

reductions in public sector spending, clubs and local authorities would need to be aware of the potential for funding streams to disappear in relation to such training.

Mr Weir advised that currently if a Steward was unemployed then the appropriate training was provided free of charge. If employed then £90 would be required to funding the training.

## **10 Certifying Authority Audit by SGSA**

The Chairman advised that the audit of the Local Authority with regard to its responsibilities under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act had been completed and feedback received. There were areas in which the Local Authority had done well and others which required improvement. He advised that he would forward a copy of the Audit to any interested parties.

Ms Storey replied that perhaps the Chairman was selling himself and the Local Authority short. It was in fact an excellent report.

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **(i) TRO Wearmouth Bridge**

Mr Lewins referred to the post match lane closures on the Wearmouth Bridge. He stated that the Council funded the traffic management aspect of the closure at a cost of £20 - £30,000 per season however he no longer had a budget to cover this. He asked if representations could be made to the football club for assistance in the matter.

It was agreed as a way forward that Les Clark the Council's Head of Streetscene should put the request in writing to Margaret Byrne, Chief Executive of the Football Club.

In addition Mr Weir asked if the restrictions in respect of the park and ride could now be waived. The Chairman replied that restrictions were part of the conditions attached to the planning consent granted to the Stadium.

### **(ii) Media Facilities**

Mr Weymes advised that a review of the facilities for the media was under way and may involve the relocation of the current press desks. Once the position was clarified he would report back to the Group.

### **(iii) Aquatic Centre Car Park**

Mr Dobson advised that on the day of the Middlesbrough match the Police had asked for the staff car park at the aquatic centre to be vacated in order to accommodate some of their units. The request had been made at the last minute and had caused a number of problems.

Mr Weir stated that the same request had been made in respect of the Club's disabled car park. It was an example of Bronze Commanders taking unilateral decisions on the ground.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the Stadium on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at 10.30 a.m.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

(Signed) K. SCOTT,  
Chairman.

