

At a meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 1st JULY, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:-

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Bewick, Fletcher, P. Gibson, Heron, Johnston, Lawson, D. MacKnight, Scaplehorn and A. Wood.

Declarations of Interest

Items 4, 5 and 6 – Sunderland Stadium of Light

Councillors Heron and Johnston declared that they were season ticket holders for SAFC.

Item 11 – Driver D

Councillor Bewick declared that he knew the driver and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Howe, Hunt, Leadbitter, O'Brien and Turner.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 3rd June, 2019 Part I

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 3rd June, 2019, Part I (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Sunderland Stadium of Light – Renewal of Safety Certificate for Season 2019/20

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Committee's approval of the application by Sunderland Association Football Club for the renewal of the General Safety Certificate for the Season 2019/20.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Dawn McQuillan, Principal Building Control Officer, presented the report and advised Members that there had been no changes to the structure of the stadium which would impact on the capacity and as such the capacity remained the same as last year.

The fee for the certificate was set on a cost recovery basis and it was recommended that the fee remain at £12,250.

Members gave consideration to the matter and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. Approval be given to the grant of a General Safety Certificate for the Sunderland Stadium of Light for the season 2019/20 for capacities of 48,339 (non segregation match) and 48,095 (segregated match) on the same terms as the current safety certificate.
 - b. The fee payable for the Certificate not be increased.

Sunderland Stadium of Light – Restriction on General Safety Certificate

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) which recommended that a limit be imposed on the number of tickets made available by Sunderland Association Football Club to the visiting fans of Portsmouth FC and Coventry City FC.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Dawn McQuillan, Principal Building Control Officer, presented the report and advised Members of the disorder that had occurred last season when these clubs had visited the Stadium of Light. There had been 2,683 Coventry City FC fans and 3,219 Portsmouth FC fans had attended the matches last year and at both matches there had been pyrotechnic devices thrown by away fans into the home supporters area beneath. Sunderland supporters had been shocked by the incidents and there had been injuries reported; some fans had left the stadium or had moved to other parts of the stadium to get away from the away fans. The Portsmouth FC game had been suspended for 5 minutes following the pyrotechnic being thrown due to the concerns for supporter welfare. There had been over 100 written complaints received by the club following the Coventry City fixture. The police were supportive of the requested reduction in the number of away fans for these fixtures this season.

Members gave consideration to the matter and it was noted that it was a small minority of away fans that caused the issues. It was a concern that the away fans were seated above the home fans; the previous incidents had been very frightening for fans especially as the area seated a number of families with children. It was questioned whether the reduction in the number of visiting fans would ensure that they could not throw objects onto the home fans below. Ms McQuillan advised that there would be more police and stewards in place to ensure that there was more control over the away fans; the cost of this would be picked up by the police; it was unlikely that it would be possible to move the away fans to another part of the stadium so close to the start of the season however she would report back Members concerns to the Safety Advisory Group.

Councillor Heron, seconded by Councillor Johnston, moved that approval be given to the requested reductions and with all Members being in agreement it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. Approval be given to the setting of a limit of 2000 visiting fans for the fixture with Portsmouth FC on Saturday 17th August 2019 and 1500 visiting fans for the fixture with Coventry City FC on Saturday 23rd November 2019 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 Executive Director of City Development be authorised to follow such procedure and issue such notice needed to obtain compliance with the proposed restriction.

Street Collection Permits Within the Vicinity of the Sunderland Stadium of Light

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee's approval of the format of a draw with the purpose of allocating street collection permits within the vicinity of the Sunderland Stadium of Light during the 2019/20 season and that the Chair subsequently undertook the draw.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ernie Humphrey, Senior Licensing Officer, presented the report and advised Members of the requests from SAFC Foundation to collect on the following five fixtures:

Portsmouth – 17th August 2019
Tranmere – 22nd October 2019
Blackpool – 14th December 2019
Ipswich – 8th February 2020
Accrington – 25th April 2020

Additionally the football club had requested two further fixtures for charities which they were closely linked to which were MIND to collect at Fleetwood Town on 12th October 2019 to coincide with World Mental Health Day and Veterans in Crisis to collect at Southend United on 2nd November 2019 which was the closest home fixture to Remembrance Day.

Prior to the draw being undertaken Councillor P. Gibson queried the list of applicants; he believed that previously there had been an agreement that only applications from Sunderland based organisations would be accepted but there were a number of organisations from outside of Sunderland were listed. Mr Wotherspoon advised that there had been discussions previously however it was his understanding that there had been no decision to limit the applications to only be Sunderland based organisations. Historically the club had been the club for residents of the Durham and South Tyneside areas.

Councillor Lawson commented that she was not concerned by smaller groups from outside the city but was concerned by the larger charities and whether the money collected would benefit the residents of Sunderland. She knew that football supporters were generous at donating to the collections outside of stadia and she hoped that the money collected would benefit Sunderland residents. Mr Wotherspoon advised that there had previously been a policy where the permits were issued based on chronological order of receipt however the policy had been changed to be a draw. Larger charities had always been included. The policy could be changed for future years if Members desired so that Members looked at each application against an agreed criteria. If Members had any suggestions for alternatives or changes to the draw they should let officers know.

Councillor MacKnight queried whether there were still restrictions on organisations collecting in multiple years and Mr Humphrey advised that there was; if a group had been permitted to collect last year then their application would be held back until groups who had not received a permit last year had been drawn.

Members gave consideration to the requests from the SAFC Foundation and the football club for street collection permits and agreed to grant permits to collect at the requested fixtures. Members also agreed the request from Northumbria Police that no permits be issued for any matches involving Newcastle United or Middlesbrough FC.

There were 16 fixtures for permits to be allocated to and a reserve list of 10 organisations for any cup fixtures or rescheduled matches. Applications had been received from 31 organisations who had not been awarded permits last season.

The Chairman Carried out the draw for the 16 available fixtures which was followed by a draw for the reserve list of 10 which would be allocated in order of being drawn to any other fixture which may become available e.g. a cup match or a re-scheduled league game which had been previously abandoned.

4. RESOLVED that approval be given to the following allocation of street collection permits in the vicinity of the Stadium of Light for the season 2019/20:-

Date	Fixtures	Organisation
3/08/19	Oxford United	St Bede's Primary School
17/08/19	Portsmouth	SAFC Foundation
24/08/19	AFC Wimbledon	Teenage Cancer Trust
7/09/19	Burton Albion	Castle Eden Cricket Club Juniors
17/09/19	Rotherham Utd	Durham Camp House
28/09/19	MK Dons	St Benedict's Hospice
12/10/19	Fleetwood Town	MIND
22/10/19	Tranmere Rovers	SAFC Foundation
2/11/19	Southend Utd	Veterans in Crisis
23/11/19	Coventry City	Sunderland West End FC
14/12/19	Blackpool	SAFC Foundation
26/12/19	Bolton Wanderers	Velocity Vikings
4/01/20	Lincoln City	Lumley Ladies FC
11/01/20	Wycombe Wands	Hetton Lyons Cricket Club

25/01/20	Doncaster Rovers	Rotary SR1
8/02/20	Ipswich Town	SAFC Foundation
11/02/20	Rochdale	Winlaton Juniors FC
22/02/20	Bristol Rovers	Bradley Improtech FC (Juniors)
7/03/20	Gillingham	Humbledon and Plains Farm Youth Football
21/03/20	Bury	Boldon Girls FC
4/04/20	Shrewsbury Town	Seaham Coast Girls FC
13/04/20	Peterborough Utd	Hetton Juniors FC
25/04/20	Accrington Stan.	SAFC Foundation

Reserve List	
1	Lumley FC
2	Hebburn Town Juniors FC
3	Guide Dogs for the Blind
4	Houghton Area Youth Band
5	Citizens Advice Sunderland
6	Macmillan Cancer Support
7	NSPCC Sunderland
8	Durham Christian Partnership
9	Littletown Cricket Club
10	Sunderland Lions Club

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

5. 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) J. BLACKBURN,
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.