

**At a meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> JULY, 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, Emerson, Farthing, P. Gibson, MacKnight, Marshall, T. Martin, D. Smith and Wiper.

**Declarations of Interest**

Items 4 and 5

Councillor Emerson declared that he was a season ticket holder for Sunderland AFC

Item 6

Councillors T. Martin and Marshall declared that they were members of the Royal British Legion.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors D. Dixon, Galbraith, Thompson and Waller.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014 Part I**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014, Part I (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Sunderland Stadium of Light – Renewal of Safety Certificate for Season 2014/2015**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee to approve the application by Sunderland Association Football Club for the renewal of the General Safety Certificate for Season 2014/2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Paul Baxter, Building Control Manager, presented the report and advised that the capacity of the stadium had not changed nor had the fee payable for the certificate.

Councillors P. Gibson and D. Smith queried the fee attached to the certificate as it had not been increased for a significant length of time and asked whether there had been any increase in the amount of officer time spent on the work and whether the fee still covered the cost of administering the work.

Mr Baxter advised that the time spent working on the certificate had been recorded and there had not been any extra time spent on the application when compared with previous years. The Council was only allowed to charge for the administration of the certificate; the current fee was able to be justified as being at an appropriate level.

2. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. Approval be given to the grant of a General Safety Certificate for the Sunderland Stadium of Light for the Season 2014/2015 for capacities of 48,339 (Non Segregated Match) and 48,095 (Segregated Match) on the same terms as in the current Safety Certificate
  - b. The fee payable remain at £12,250

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

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which recommended that the Committee impose a limit on the number of tickets made available by Sunderland Association Football Club to the visiting fans of Manchester United on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Paul Baxter, Building Control Manager advised that the match had been rescheduled from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 at 4:00pm to accommodate Sky TV. The restriction being sought was for a maximum of 2,500 visiting fans as this was considered to be the maximum number of visiting fans that the club through their safety management plan felt confident in being able to observe safety concerns and carry out enforcement of ground regulation 13.

Councillor Anderson commented that in the past she had been contacted by a group of Liverpool fans who had not been happy about the restricted number of tickets which had been made available to them. She acknowledged that there was a problem throughout the Premier League and stated that part of the problem might have been that young people did not remember the Hillsborough disaster.

Mr Baxter advised that it was a real safety concern and people standing then lead to the people behind them being forced to stand in order to see the game.

Councillor Emerson stated that there needed to be a gap in front of the away fans to ensure that objects could not be thrown onto the home fans sat below. Mr Baxter advised that the front 3 rows would be kept clear and the club had provided assurances that additional stewards and police would be present in that area.

In response to Councillor Farthing Mr Baxter advised that there was extensive CCTV coverage within the stadium and this was used to prosecute people who were breaking the law.

3. RESOLVED that:-
- a. Approval be given to the setting of a limit of 2500 visiting fans for the fixture with Manchester United on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014 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. Authorisation be given to the Deputy Chief Executive 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 Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested that the Committee agree the format of a draw with the purpose of allocating street collection permits within the vicinity of the Stadium of Light during the 2014/15 season and that the Chair subsequently undertakes the draw.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Richard Reading, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, presented the report informing the Committee of a request from the SAFC Foundation to hold street collections at the following five fixtures:-

Manchester United – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014  
Arsenal – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
Chelsea – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
Aston Villa – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
Leicester City – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Members agreed the request from SAFC Foundation in respect of the above fixtures and also agreed the request from Northumbria Police that no permits be issued for any matches involving Newcastle United or Middlesbrough FC.

Members gave consideration to the request from Sunderland Armed Forces Network to collect at a match near to Remembrance Sunday as it was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the First World War. They had originally requested the Everton match which had been scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014; this match had been rescheduled to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November which was Remembrance Sunday. The network would not be available to collect at the stadium on this date and as such they had requested the Tottenham Hotspur game on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Members agreed the request from the Armed Forces Network as they considered the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the First World War to be an exceptional circumstance which was deserving of a variation to the policy of allocating permits by way of a draw.

Members also gave consideration to a request from the Mayor's Office that the Mayor be granted a permit to collect on behalf of his charities at the Hull City match scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Members discussed this request and concerns were raised that granting this request would then deprive another charity of the

possibility of being granted a permit. There were also concerns raised that other groups might perceive that the Mayor's charity was being given a privilege that other groups were not offered. Members did not feel that there was any reason to depart from the agreed policy and as such it was not considered to be appropriate to grant this request and the Mayor's charity would be placed into the draw along with the other organisations who had requested permits.

The Chairman Carried out the draw for the 12 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 2014/15:-

Date	Fixtures	Organisation
24/08/2014	Manchester United	SAFC Foundation
13/09/2014	Tottenham Hotspur	Sunderland Armed Forces Network
27/09/2014	Swansea City	Grindon All Stars (Under 11's)
4/10/2014	Stoke City	MS Society & District
25/10/2014	Arsenal	SAFC Foundation
8/11/2014	Everton	Fulwell Jnr FC
29/11/2014	Chelsea	SAFC Foundation
3/12/2014	Manchester City	1 <sup>st</sup> Eppleton Scout Group
13/12/2014	West Ham United	Hetton Lyons CC
26/12/2014	Hull City	Whitworth Park School
10/01/2015	Liverpool	Houghton Harriers
31/1/2015	Burnley	Lumley FC
11/2/2015	QPR	Friends of Sedgefield Harriers
21/2/2015	West Bromwich Albion	Sunderland Life Boat Guild
14/3/2015	Aston Villa	SAFC Foundation
11/4/2015	Crystal Palace	3 <sup>rd</sup> Washington Scout Group
2/5/2015	Southampton	Durham Guide Camp House
16/5/2015	Leicester City	SAFC Foundation

Reserve List	
1	Hope For Kidz
2	Children's Foundation
3	Houghton Le Spring District Scout Council
4	Swalwell Juniors
5	Action for Children
6	Southwick Community Primary School
7	Mayor's Charities
8	Lumley Ladies FC
9	Saxon Junior FC
10	The Living Way

## **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.

