

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Environment Committee

Date: 4th September 2003

Report of: Acting Director of Environment

Subject: Response to Patcham Place Pavilion Scrutiny Panel

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To inform members of the response to the 11 recommendations made by the Patcham Place Pavilion Scrutiny Panel.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Environment Committee accepts the Patcham Place Pavilion Scrutiny Panel's recommendations 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and requests a further update on progress at its meeting on 24th January 2004.

2.2 That the Environment Committee instructs officers to make further bids at the appropriate time to the Property Improvement Fund seeking additional funding to reinstate the pavilion at Patcham Place. (Patcham Place Scrutiny Panel Recommendation 1).

2.3 That the Environment Committee further instructs officers to bid for an allocation of funding through all appropriate internal sources in order to support the Patcham Place Panel recommendation 8.

2.4 That the Environment Committee agree to the risk assessments suggested in Patcham Place Pavilion Scrutiny Panel Recommendation 11, but recognize that the city's outdoor spaces provide for both sports use and events and therefore the City's open spaces that are also used for sport should continue to host appropriate events.

3. Information/background

3.1 The Patcham Place Pavilion Scrutiny Panel was established on 18th November 2002 and considered:

- the issues relating to the Patcham Place Sports Pavilion that had been destroyed in an arson attack in 2002 and had not been replaced
- wider implications regarding participation in outdoor sport and recreation.

The remit of the Panel was to:

- Investigate and make recommendations on the possible options for a sports pavilion at Patcham Place
- identify any issues arising from the decision on the facility in relation to the council's draft Sports and Recreation Strategy and draft Playing Pitch Strategy.

3.2 The Panel heard extensive evidence from officers and sports representatives including six cricket clubs, Brighton & Hove District Cricket Association and Patcham United Football Club.

3.3 The Scrutiny Panel has made 11 carefully considered recommendations – 1 relates specifically to the Patcham Place Pavilion and the remaining 10 are seeking to ensure that the outdoor “sporting offer” available to the public can be maintained and where achievable, improved.

3.4 Recommendations from the Panel

3.4.1 Recommendation 1

That Patcham Place be retained as an important sports venue in the City and the sports pavilion be reinstated according to the latest proposed plans.

Response/Action to Recommendation 1

Following a previous report to Environment Committee on 31st July 2003, the tendering exercise for a replacement pavilion has now reached the next stage.

Of the tenders received the lowest is £213K, which leaves a budget shortfall of £53K. The funds allocated currently are £120K insurance money and £40K from the Property Improvement Fund for 2003/04.

The reinstatement of the Pavilion cannot progress further until additional funding can be identified.

3.4.2 Recommendation 2

That taking into account the points raised by the contributors to the Scrutiny Panel (especially the three requests outlined at paragraph 2.5 above) and in consultation with the sports users, the Brighton and Hove

Playing Pitch Strategy be progressed, adopted and implemented as a matter of priority.

Response/Action to Recommendation 2

The draft Playing Pitch Strategy which currently exists will be revised and directly linked with the work undertaken in respect of new contractual arrangements for grounds maintenance which will be in place for 1st April 2004. In addition to this consultation with sports users will also take place as part of the development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

The current draft Playing Pitch Strategy has already been broadly implemented on a site by site basis.

3.4.3 Recommendation 3

That sports interests be represented on the Open Spaces Forum who are currently working to develop the 10-year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

Response/Action to Recommendation 3

The Open Spaces Forum has re-established itself with a new Chair and preparatory work is being undertaken to produce a draft framework to develop a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The forum is intending to hold a meeting to discuss this on the 8th October, to which major sports stakeholders will be invited and will continue to be consulted through the preparation of the proposed strategy.

3.4.4 Recommendation 4

That a clear route for complaints be notified to sports clubs together with details of the Council's revised Corporate Complaints system for further follow-up where necessary.

Response/Action to Recommendation 4

All of the football and cricket leagues are aware of the reporting procedures for the respective sports, where all complaints received on a Monday are rectified by the Friday or before the next fixture.

3.4.5 Recommendation 5

That means be found to raise the general standard of cleanliness and physical condition, and to monitor more closely the City's outdoor sports pavilions. There needs to be consideration of how inspections can be improved, such as including a responsibility to check and report back in the routine work of the Urban Rangers which was currently being reviewed.

Response/Action to Recommendation 5

In addition to reinforcing the standard of cleaning with the current contractor arrangements will also be reflected in new grounds

maintenance contract conditions; this will also include the need to report and carry out minor repairs. The role of the Urban Rangers will also embrace a level of inspection within the sports pavilion.

3.4.6 Recommendation 6

That measures be taken to effect speedy minor repairs to sports pavilions, in particular where they relate to security for example an in-house handyperson or small works contractor, and that the general safety and security be improved such as installing shutters and unbreakable window panes.

Response/Action to Recommendation 6

Following a report of a minor problem or repair that is required, an immediate instruction is given to the council's small works contractor F. J. Stenning. Our target is to effect a repair before the following fixture.

3.4.7 Recommendation 7

That a check on the power and water utilities to the Council's sports pavilions be included in the next available building condition survey.

Response/Action to Recommendation 7

These checks are carried out on a regular basis in line with the appropriate legislation. The current checking process will be completed prior to the start of football season on September 3rd.

3.4.8 Recommendation 8

That from 2004/2005, an appropriately funded annual capital and revenue programme be established for maintenance, improvements, updates and additions to the City's outdoor sports pavilions.

Response/Action to recommendation 8

An initial successful bid to the Property Improvement Fund has been made with £40K allocated for 2003/4 by Policy & Resources Committee in June 2003. This is to be allocated to the replacement costs for the Patcham Place Pavilion.

3.4.9 Recommendation 9

That the Planning Policy Team should actively seek commuted payments in negotiating planning obligations concerning both commercial and residential developments, to be ring-fenced to provide improvements and additional capacity to outdoor sports facilities and where possible, additional outdoor sports facilities across the whole City.

Response/Action to Recommendation 9

In appropriate cases, as part of Section 106 negotiations, potential developers will have to make a contribution towards improving/enhancing recreational and sporting facilities. This process

is being discussed in detail with planning colleagues with a view to agreeing how such a contribution can be calculated and implemented.

3.4.10 Recommendation 10

That the possibility of clubs entering into leasing agreements with the Council be further investigated to increase the opportunities to attract sources of external funding.

Response/Action to Recommendation 10

This possibility will be investigated further particularly where such an arrangement could result in attracting additional external funding.

3.4.11 Recommendation 11

That a risk assessment for all proposed non-sports outdoor events should in future include the risk of damage to the grounds and the use of mats for protection. Consent should not be given for the event if there is a risk of long-term damage to the playing surface.

Response/Action to Recommendation 11

In line with the current Events Strategy every site is inspected for suitability and likely impact on future sporting fixtures. The risk assessments carried out by event organisers will also reflect the risk of direct damage to a sports pitch.

4.1 Consultation

The Patcham Place Pavilion Scrutiny Panel drew evidence from a wide range of cricket clubs, the Brighton & Hove & District Cricket Association and Patcham United Football Club.

4.2 Officers within Environment are committed to and will continue to identify ways in which the city's outdoor sports provision can be both maintained and where possible improved. And will ensure that there is ongoing consultation with regular sports users.

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