

SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

ABERDEEN 4 September 2014. Minute of Meeting of the SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.

Present:- Arlene Dunbar (Litigation and Licensing), Roland George (Aberdeen Football Club), Andrew Gilchrist (Environmental Health), Paul Hendry, (Aberdeen Football Club), Grant Tierney (Building Standards), Willie Tocher (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), and Inness Walker (Police Scotland).

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

1. The Group were advised that Eric Anderson, Team Leader, Litigation and Licensing would no longer regularly attend meetings of the Group and that it would be co-ordinated by other officers of Litigation and Licensing. In his absence, Arlene Dunbar, Paralegal, Litigation and Licensing, took the Chair.

Arlene Dunbar confirmed that Mr Anderson would continue to receive the agenda and minutes of the Group and would be fully informed of the Group activities. She also advised that the position could be reviewed if necessary.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP OF 6 MAY 2014

2. The Group had before it the minute of meeting of the Sports Ground Advisory Working Group of 06 May 2014.

The Group resolved:-
to approve the minute.

MATTERS ARISING

3. (i) Match Day Incidents

It had been agreed at the last meeting of the Group than any match day incident relevant to the Safety Certificate for Pittodrie should be reported by either Police Scotland or Aberdeen Football Club to the Group for its consideration.

It was confirmed that the Club would require to exercise a degree of judgement when determining which incidents required to be reported to the Group.

The Group were advised that there no incidents to report.

(ii) UEFA Safety Certificate

The Club explained that UEFA did not submit an official document for the Local Authority to sign confirming that the appropriate safety standards were in

place.UEFA have had sight of the Safety Certificate for 2014 and were satisfied with its contents.

ABERDEEN FOOTBALL CLUB GENERAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE

4. The Safety Certificate for 2014 was signed off by the head of Legal and Democratic Services and issued to the Club on 3 July 2014.

The Group had before it for consideration the General Safety Certificate renewal policy.

It was noted that references to Grampian Police and Grampian Fire and Rescue Services required to be updated to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The Group were reminded that the Certificate would require to be approved by the Licensing Committee before being signed by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The appropriate Committee meeting was 30 June 2015.

The Club considered that the timetable for 2014 had been tight and suggested that it would be beneficial to present the certificate to the Licensing Committee prior to June 2015. In order to facilitate this, the Club agreed to provide all necessary reports and documents required by Building Standards no later than Friday 3 April 2015.

The Group resolved:-

- (i) that the references in the renewal policy to Grampian Police and Grampian Fire and Rescue Service be amended;
- (ii) that officers of Litigation and Licensing confirm the date of the last Licensing Committee prior to June 2015; and
- (iii) that Aberdeen Football Club provide all reports and documentation required for the renewal of the Safety Certificate to Litigation & Licensing for distribution no later 3 April 2015.

MATCH DAY INSPECTIONS

5. It had previously been agreed that 2 match day inspections would take place at the stadium per season.

The Group resolved:-

to carry out a match day inspection on Tuesday 30 September 2014 and Wednesday 8 April 2015

POLICE HORSES OUTSIDE PITTODRIE

6. The use of police horses had been observed at the stadium and as this was a new feature, the matter was raised at the Group for discussion.

Innes Walker advised the Group that the use of police horses should not be viewed as an increased police presence at the stadium. Horses are now a resource available across Scotland since the creation of Police Scotland. The use of horses is an external resource for policing around the stadium and has no bearing on the policing within the stadium itself or impact on the Club's internal procedures on match days. In his view, the use of horses had no impact on the Safety Certificate.

The Group resolved:-
to note the position

ELECTRONIC ADVERTING BOARDS

7. The Club advised that they had installed new LED advertising boards in front of the Main Stand. In addition to advertising the boards are a useful tool for providing information relating to health and safety messages and the Club's unacceptable behaviour policy. Similar boards had been supplied to other football clubs throughout Scotland.

Grant Tierney enquired about the location of the boards and their effect on evacuation procedures. The Club advised that the boards were positioned in such a way that the gate swung open towards the pitch should an emergency arise and that it was manned at all times by a steward.

The Club were reminded that in future they should consult with the Working Group prior to making an alteration or addition to the stadium which is likely to affect the safety of persons at the stadium.

The Group Resolved:-

- (i) to request that an amendment be made to Aberdeen Football Club evacuation procedures to take account of the LED boards; and
- (ii) to observe the operation of the advertising boards and the gate at the forthcoming match day inspection

TABLE TOP EXERCISE

8. The Club advised that it was to carry out a table top exercise on 10 September 2014. The purpose of the exercise was to test the contingency plan. An invitation to attend the exercise had previously been circulated by the Club and an agenda had been issued to those who had responded.

Arlene Dunbar advised that David McKane, Enforcement Officer, Litigation and Licensing would attend to observe the exercise. Environmental Health and Building

Standards advised that they would confirm if representatives would be available to attend.

The Group resolved:-
to note the position.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9. The Group agreed to hold the next meeting in early December 2014. Arlene Dunbar would confirm a date and venue.

AOCB

10. Media Risk Assessment

Smoking at the Stadium

Andrew Gilchrist enquired about the smoking policy at the Stadium. The Club confirmed that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the ground. Currently e-cigarettes are permitted in the ground. Mr Gilchrist also enquired about noise from the sound system. The Club advised that they had recently had the sound levels checked and the sound system improved. No complaints had been received from residents in the surrounding area.