

**Democratic Services
Office**

Date: 1st April 2015

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Chief Executive:
Stephen Phillips

Dear Councillor

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD –
THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2015**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Thursday, 2nd April, 2015 meeting of the Economic and Community Regeneration Cabinet Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

- a) Urgent Joint Report of the Director of Environment and the Head of Legal Services -
Playing Fields and Pavilion at Talbot Memorial Park, Taibach (Pages 1 - 8)

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

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ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

ADDENDUM REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

2nd April 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD AFFECTED: PORT TALBOT

PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION AT TALBOT MEMORIAL PARK TAIBACH

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the further objections that have been received in following the publication of the Council's Public Open Space notice relating to the Authority's intention to lease the playing field and pavilion at Talbot Memorial Park to Taibach RFC and to request members to consider the objections received.

Background

Following the preparation of the main report 2 further objections were received to the Council's proposal.

Although both were received after the deadline of the 20th of March stipulated in the notice members are advised to consider them.

Appendices

Copies of the 2 objections received in respect of the notice.

Recommendations

Members would be well advised to consider the objections.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To comply with the Council's obligation under Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 and to give full consideration to all the objections received to the proposal.

List of Background Papers

The e-mails received from the objectors

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION AT TALBOT MEMORIAL PARK TAIBACH

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	..	positive
Education & Lifelong Learning	..	no impact
Better Health & Wellbeing	..	positive
Environment & Transport	..	positive
Crime & Disorder	..	positive

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	..	no impact
Sustainable Development	..	positive
Equalities	..	no impact
Social Inclusion	..	positive

(c) Consultation

This item has been subject to external consultation

For further information on this report please contact David Phillips – Property and Regeneration on extension 6980 email: d.phillips@npt.gov.uk or Aled Roderick – Legal Services on extension 3746 email: a.roderick@npt.gov.uk)

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TALBOT MEMORIAL PARK

ANNEX

From: David A. Phillips
Sent: 01 April 2015 12:39
To: Aled Roderick
Subject: FW: Playing Field Taibach

[REDACTED]
To: David A. Phillips
Sent: Sat Mar 28 13:17:44 2015
Subject: Playing Field Taibach

Dear Mr Phillips,

I understand that there is a proposal from the Council to lease the public playing fields next to the tennis courts in the Port Talbot Memorial Park to Taibach Rugby Club. I should like to make the following comments.

This area is currently extremely well used by dog walkers at all times of the day. A happy, healthy dog requires a good run off the lead and socialisation with other dogs and people. There is no other amenity in Taibach which provides this as effectively as the playing field. I feel that it should therefore not be restricted to use by a minority of the public on an irregular basis without regard to the needs of the use by a large section of the public on a daily basis, come rain or shine.

If the dogs cannot run in the field, owners will inevitably let them run free in the gardens. The less responsible will not care whether damage is done to the flowerbeds. In addition, in a reasonably well built up area such as Taibach this field also provides recreation for children playing ball games. They will either move into the park gardens leading again to damage to flowerbeds or onto the side streets which could cause accidents in traffic and damage to property.

I consider that provision should be made for a suitable alternative area for dog owners and their pets before the requirements of a minority group are met.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: David A. Phillips
Sent: 01 April 2015 12:38
To: Aled Roderick
Subject: FW: Public playing fields at the Talbot Memorial Park

[REDACTED]
To: David A. Phillips

[REDACTED]
Sent: Mon Mar 30 19:18:07 2015
Subject: Public playing fields at the Talbot Memorial Park

To the committee members:

At present, the public playing fields are used by a local rugby club, local soccer clubs, local schools and the public. The percentage of use by clubs and schools is around 10% of the opening hours. Therefore, it is the public who use the playing fields for the vast majority of the time. The fields are used, and have been used, for many years for free play by children and adults, picnics, dog walking and as a thoroughfare. The fields are an oasis in an industrial area, and are used by many local people regularly.

My preferred option would be for the CBC to retain control of the fields so that the status quo could continue. The fields were a gift to the people of the town from Emily Talbot, a wonderful lady who put her knowledge of the necessities of healthy living into action with her gift of the fields and the park. So many families are able to use the fields at present as a free activity, a precious commodity at this time, and possibly more so now than in previous years.

I appreciate that the CBC has budgetary considerations. However, I believe that the health and wellbeing of the community should be of paramount importance to the councillors. Therefore, if this retrograde step is taken, then the CBC should safeguard the use of the fields by the public when they are not been used by clubs with permits.

As a committee member of the Friends of Talbot Memorial Park, I would be happy to take part in discussions with the CBC and Taibach Rugby Club, so that the interested parties can come to a satisfactory outcome for all.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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