



Committee and date  
Strategic licensing Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
9.30am

Item No  
**7**  
Public

## **SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS – ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2009-2010**

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### **Summary**

On 15 December 2009 it was resolved that an annual report be given to Members of the Strategic Licensing Committee detailing the exercise of delegated functions in respect of the safety of sports grounds, undertaken by officers throughout the year.

### **Recommendations**

That Strategic Licensing Committee:-

- A Note the activities in respect of Sports Grounds Safety at designated sports grounds in Shropshire.

## **Report**

### **Background**

1. The Health & Safety and Promotions team situated within Environmental Health is responsible for the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
2. Under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, the Council is required to issue Safety Certificates for 'designated sport grounds' which are defined as:-  
  
' A place where sports or other competitive activities take place in the open air and where accommodation has been provided for spectators, consisting of artificial structures or of natural structures artificially modified for the purpose'.
3. Safety certificates are required for sports grounds that:

- Can accommodate more than 10,000 spectators (5,000 in the case of Football League grounds) or
  - Have a covered stand that holds 500 or more spectators.
4. The primary purpose of a safety certificate is to set the safe capacity of a designated ground or of a regulated stand at a non-designated ground. In addition to setting the safe capacity the safety certificate will set out the detailed terms and conditions with which the certificate holder must comply if that capacity is to be maintained
5. Three venues within Shropshire have Safety Certificates these are:-
- Shrewsbury Town Football Club.
  - New Saints Football Club, Oswestry.
  - Ludlow Racecourse.

### **Shrewsbury Town Football Club (Greenhous Meadow)**

6. As an important step to achieving the reasonable safety of a sports ground a calculation has to be made to establish a safe capacity. Inspections were carried out by the Health and Safety Officers in April and May 2010 to assess each part of the ground's viewing accommodation according to its physical condition and the quality of the safety management of that area.
7. The criteria set out in the national guidance document, 'The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds' enabled the capacity for the Greenhous Meadow Stadium to be calculated as 9,875.
8. A Safety Advisory Group comprising of West Mercia Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service, Shropshire Fire and Rescue and the Football Licensing Authority now meets with representatives of Shrewsbury Town management team on a quarterly basis.
9. The recent Shrewsbury Town v Hereford United match held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, an important local derby, was attended by Safety Advisory Group members to view the football club's operational procedures in action. At the game there were a number of incidences of crowd disorder.
10. Lessons learnt from the match were raised at the following Safety Advisory Group meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and. An action plan has now been drawn up by the Club to prevent similar incidences in the future. The success of this plan will be reviewed by the Safety Advisory Group.
11. Next year it is proposed that an Elton John concert will take place in June 2011. The Club will require a Special Safety Certificate for the event. The Safety Advisory Group has already met with the event organisers and further meetings are planned.

### **New Saints Football Club, Oswestry**

12. The New Saints Football Club does not presently fall within the definition of a sports ground of sufficient capacity or with a regulated stand, to necessitate the need for a safety certificate. However, when UEFA games are held at the club, UEFA require them to have a Safety Certificate. Following inspection a certificate was given to the club on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

### **Ludlow Racecourse**

13. The racecourse has a regulated stand which this year is being extended. An inspection of the premises was carried out in May 2010 and a further visit is planned on completion of the stand.

<p><b>List of Background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b></p>
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<p>Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 Fire Safety and Safety of places of Sports Act 1987 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005</p>
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<p><b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b></p>
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<p>Human Rights considerations are relevant as the restriction of numbers of spectators or the issue of a Safety Certificate with conditions will affect an applicants business and similarly might affect the safety of spectators. Various rights have to be balanced and weighed against one another. The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 and Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are compatible with the Human Rights Act and all convention rights and individual rights are adequately protected and that any person's rights would only be affected proportionately in all the circumstances.</p>
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<p><b>Environmental Appraisal</b></p>
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<p>N/A</p>
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<p><b>Risk management Appraisal</b></p>
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<p>N/A</p>
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<p><b>Community / Consultations Appraisal</b></p>
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<p>N/A</p>
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<p><b>Cabinet Member:</b></p>
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<p>Cecilia Mottley</p>
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<p><b>Local Member:</b></p>
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<p>Covers all areas of the council</p>
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<p><b>Appendix</b></p>
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