



Date of Issue: 3rd September 2019

A MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** WILL BE HELD ON **MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2019** IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE, SR8 2PH** at **6.30pm**

Mr I Morris M.C.I.H, P.S.L.C.C.

Town Clerk

A G E N D A

Members of the Committee and members of the public are reminded that the public part of the meeting may be recorded in both audio and video, and photographs may be taken.

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are cordially invited to inform the Deputy Town Clerk of their apologies as soon as practical

2. To receive declarations of interest

Members are reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Please seek advice from the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk prior to the meeting if in doubt.

Members are reminded that they can check their published declaration of interests here: <https://bit.ly/2wVyeLA>

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Members are asked to agree the attached minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting

(Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2019, attached)

4. Smoke-free Playgrounds

Item referred from the Community & Environment Committee held on 8th July 2019. Members will receive a brief verbal report from the Town Clerk to consider adopting the smoke free play area initiatives in Peterlee.

5. Award of contract – Heath Close Play Area renewal

Members will receive a report from the Parks Manager and Town Clerk recommending the award of a contract for the renewal of the play area at Heath Close.

(Report of the Town Clerk, to follow)

6. Minutes of the Woodhouse Park Working Party of the 14th August 2019

Members are asked to note the attached minutes of this working party.

(Minutes of the Woodhouse Park Working Party attached)

7. Woodhouse Park Safety Improvements & Security Survey (attached)

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE ON MONDAY 8TH JULY 2019 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, K Hawley & K J Duffy

Messrs:- G L Carne, C Watkins, S D McGlen, S Miles, R Moore,
A Watson, A Wilkinson & T Duffy

The Chairman advised Members of the committee that part of the meeting may be recorded by both audio and video, and it may be that photographs were taken.

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from A C Long (holiday), S McDonnell, S Franklin and L Fenwick. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

10. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. None were given.

11. To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Members agreed the attached minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting subject to the following amendments being made:-

Matters Arising

Minute No 6 – Update on Sports Development Activities

RESOLVED the minute be amended to read the Roy Simpson OBE Cricket Oval.

12. Smoke free Play Areas

The Chair welcomed Kirsty Wilkinson, Public Health Portfolio Lead from Durham County Council, who gave a presentation on the smoke free play areas initiative with the ambition of a tobacco free generation. It was stressed this was a voluntary code and the only cost to the Town Council would be signage. The Chair opened the meeting for a question and answer session. She then thanked Ms Wilkinson for her attendance. **RESOLVED a report be**

prepared for consideration at the Council Meeting, with a view to adopting the smoke free play areas initiative in Peterlee.

13. PATHHS Final Evaluation Report

The Chair welcomed Ms Barbara Chrisp who presented the final report on the PATHH Project, Positive Attitude to Holistic Health Pilot Programme Report and went into details on the positive results contained in the report.

The Town Clerk commented on the excellent evaluation report and commended the work of the PATHH Project.

The Chair thanked Ms Chrisp and her colleagues for coming along to the meeting and it was agreed that the Town Clerk provide advice to the Calm CIC on the options for funding to take the second year of the project forward. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

Consideration was then given to two requests for concessionary use of rooms at The Pavilion in connection with the programme as below:-

- (i) Children's PATHH – Family Sessions, The Pavilion, Summer 2019, 5 weeks
- (ii) PATHH Continuation of Care, Yoga Class, The Pavilion, every Friday

RESOLVED concessionary rate of 50% the hourly rate of room hire be agreed for these two activities.

14. Parks Department Fleet arrangements

To provide Members with a summary of the Parks Department vehicle fleet and proposals for changing from ownership to hire arrangements. **RESOLVED consideration of this item be deferred to a future meeting.**

15. Minutes of the Woodhouse Park Working Party of the 12th June 2019 a copy of which had been circulated, were noted.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 3 – Anti social behaviour

Councillor A Watson commented there was always something that could be done to tackle issues. The Town Clerk made reference to a report presented by him in February 2018 where he had outlined safety improvements that could be made to Woodhouse Park. It was suggested this report be re submitted to a future Council meeting for further consideration.

(ii) Period Poverty

It was felt this issue needed further consideration by Council before the options considered at the Working Party could be agreed and implemented.

RESOLVED this be reported back to the Working Party.

16. Minutes of the Events Working Party of the 26th June 2019 a copy of which had been circulated, were noted.

Matters Arising

Oktoberfest III 26 October 2019

RESOLVED this event be cancelled.

17. Legionella Update

The report of the Facilities Manager, (Shotton Hall) providing Members with details of a recent legionella review and ongoing activity to mitigate the risk of legionella in all of the Town Council's buildings was considered. **RESOLVED** the contents of the report be noted and a further report be awaited when the final costs of the works was known.

18. Peterlee Town Council Procurement

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on the Town Council's current arrangements for procurement following this item being requested by Resources Committee on the 1st July 2019. **RESOLVED** this item be placed on a future scrutiny committee meeting agenda to allow full consideration and debate on it.

19. Extension to the Bistro Area, The Pavilion

Members considered the proposal to extend the Bistro Area at The Pavilion as requested by County Councillor Hawley. Councillor Hawley hoped to support the project with funding from the allocation made to her as a County Councillor towards neighbourhood projects. Council felt this was an excellent opportunity to improve the facilities at this community building and it was **RESOLVED** approval be given to accept the tender received from Space ID at a cost of £7,500 for the design and concept work for the project.



Smokefree Gated Playgrounds Briefing



Purpose of the briefing

This briefing has been prepared by Fresh for its seven commissioning local authorities, some of which may be interested in implementing, or refreshing their approach to, smokefree gated playgrounds in their local area as part of a broader package of measures to reduce tobacco-related harm.

The briefing is in response to a growing appetite in some areas to increase the number of smokefree settings, particularly in areas frequented mainly by children. It outlines the rationale for taking action as well as acknowledging the limitations of what smokefree outdoor areas can achieve, as outlined in the recent [evidence review](#) undertaken nationally by Public Health England.

Activity on smokefree gated playgrounds is recommended when local authorities already have a local action plan in place and are delivering a range of activity on tobacco control including the provision of support to help smokers quit and actions to protect people, particularly children, from the harms of indoor secondhand smoke.

It is worth noting that smokefree gated playgrounds as a measure is intended to reduce children's experience of being around tobacco use, rather than to reduce exposure to the harms of tobacco smoke, given that the health impacts of outdoor exposure continue to be contested. It is also important to note that policies on smokefree outdoor areas cannot represent an extension of the smokefree law which applies to enclosed public places, work places, work vehicles and private vehicles carrying children; instead, introducing voluntary policies is currently the most appropriate route.

The rationale for reducing smoking around children and young people

- Smoking is a childhood addiction given that most smokers start in their teens
- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and is the leading cause of health inequalities.
- Young people are more at risk of becoming smokers themselves if they grow up in communities where smoking is the norm.

- There is strong public support for smoke free playgrounds. More than 8 out of 10 people in the North East don't think smoking should be allowed in children's outdoor play areas¹.

What has been done so far to reduce children's exposure to smoking?

The national tobacco control plan '[Towards a smokefree generation](#)' highlights the importance of smokefree places in protecting people from tobacco-related harm. A number of tobacco control laws have been introduced in recent years to reduce tobacco-related harm and to shift the social norms around tobacco use including the introduction of the [smokefree law](#) in 2007, which was extended in 2015 to prevent [smoking in private vehicles](#) when there is a child present; restrictions on the availability and display of tobacco products through the removal of tobacco vending machines and point of sale displays, and the introduction of standardised tobacco packaging to the appeal of tobacco packs.

There have also been media campaigns to highlight the dangers of secondhand smoke to children, including the '[Secondhand Smoke is Poison](#)' campaign from Fresh and the Smokefree Homes and Cars campaign developed first by the Department of Health and re-launched in 2013 by Public Health England.

The benefits of smokefree gated playgrounds

Introducing a local smokefree gated playgrounds policy can bring about several benefits:

- *Decreasing the opportunity for children to see adults smoking around them.*
Children are influenced by what they see, and young people are most at risk of becoming smokers themselves if they grow up in communities where smoking is the norm. The most effective way to prevent young people from becoming smokers is to encourage adult smokers to quit and to remove young people's exposure to smoking behaviours.

- *Creating an environment in which smoking is not seen as the norm, potentially motivating smokers to cut down or to quit.*

A key aim of tobacco control is to change the social norms around tobacco use by creating a climate which challenges the perception that smoking is a normal behaviour and encourages quitting. Making gated playgrounds smokefree will help to change community norms as part of broader tobacco control strategies.

- *Reducing tobacco-related litter in our parks and play areas.*

If smoking no longer takes place in playgrounds it follows that there will be a reduction in tobacco-related litter. This will not only help to protect the environment but will mean that local authorities will need to spend fewer resources on cleaning up. Cigarette butts are the most common type of litter found in the UK and 94 tonnes of them are dropped in the North East every year. The ASH Ready Reckoner tool provides local authority level data - visit <http://ash.lelan.co.uk/>.

- *A specific policy, backed up by signage and communications activity, makes it clear that gated playgrounds are smokefree areas*

¹ YouGov figures, 2017

Signs installed in parks to indicate there is a smokefree code in place can help people to challenge someone who lights up in a play area. This is especially important for parents who smoke, as their children are more likely to start smoking than those of non-smoking parents².

Limitations to what smokefree outdoor areas can achieve

Creating smokefree outdoor areas is an example of reducing children's exposure to tobacco use as opposed to tobacco smoke, given that the harms of secondhand smoke exposure relate primarily to indoor settings. An evidence synthesis³ on smokefree outdoor public places and outdoor commercial places carried out by Public Health England found that there is currently very limited routine UK data or research available about the effectiveness of smokefree outdoor policies, largely because such strategies are less widely adopted in the UK than internationally. The report also found that compliance with smokefree outdoor areas can sometimes be low likely due to the voluntary nature of the restrictions or a lack of awareness. The report suggests that greater evidence and understanding is still needed.

Public opinion in the North East

Measures to protect children from tobacco-related harm are popular with the public. In the North East:

- 86% of people think smoking should not be allowed in children's outdoor play areas
- 89% of people would like smoking to become a thing of the past for children⁴.

Examples of implementation

Legislation, including state laws and local byelaws for smokefree outdoor areas exist in several jurisdictions across the world, including Canada⁵, America⁶ and Australia⁷.

Closer to home, a catalogue of current activity on smokefree playgrounds is being set up on the Fresh Local Tobacco Control Network area on [Knowledge Hub](#) (password protected).

Frequently asked questions

- *Shouldn't entire parks be made smokefree, rather than just the gated playground?*

Gated playgrounds are an obvious setting to focus on when considering areas that could be made smokefree. They are frequented primarily by young children and their families and as such it can be argued that tobacco smoking would be out of place. Moves to make wider areas smokefree, such as open parkland surrounding the gated area, could be deemed disproportionate and in conflict with other public health messages. For example, the key message in secondhand smoke campaigns is that if you can't quit, take your tobacco smoking outside. Local authorities are

² Leonardi-Bee, J, Lisa Jere, M, Britton, J (2011), "Exposure to parental and sibling smoking and the risk of smoking uptake in childhood and adolescence: a systematic review and meta-analysis", in Thorax International Journal of Respiratory Medicine, thorax.bmj.com/content/66/10/847.abstract

³ <https://phe.koha-ptfs.co.uk/cgi-bin/koha/opac-retrieve-file.pl?id=e2122fadd0869947cf40809c907aaa0f>

⁴ Figures taken from ASH Smokefree England survey by YouGov

⁵ <http://www.nsra-adnf.ca/cms/page1459.cfm>

⁶ <http://www.nycsmokefree.org/existing-legislation>

⁷ <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/smokefree-areas-faq.aspx>

urged to give due consideration to any unintended consequences that might arise as the result of a broader smokefree settings measure.

- *What about electronic cigarettes?*

We encourage local authorities to consider their position on the inclusion or otherwise of electronic cigarettes in the smokefree gated playgrounds policy and Public Health England have produced a range of useful tools to help guide decisions⁸.

On the basis that electronic cigarettes are largely used by adults who are trying to stop smoking and that to date there have been no identified health risks of passive vaping to bystanders⁹, Fresh recommends that electronic cigarettes are treated differently to tobacco products and are therefore not included in local smokefree gated playground policies.

What action can be taken to make gated playgrounds smokefree?

A number of routes can be taken by local authorities who wish to explore options or pursue implementation of smokefree gated playgrounds. The following actions are recommended although are not exhaustive and alliances are encouraged to speak to other areas for advice and guidance.

Raising the issue within the local authority

- ☐ Highlight the issue within the local tobacco control delivery plan and set clear milestones for discussion, decision and implementation
- ☐ Speak to elected members with relevant portfolios or areas of interest e.g. health, children's services or leisure, brief them on the issue and seek their support
- ☐ Arrange meetings with local authority officers whose remit includes, for example, children's services, leisure services, public health, tobacco control.
- ☐ Suggest that the topic is discussed strategically by local authority officers e.g. at senior management team meetings.
- ☐ Suggest that the topic is the focus of a paper, report or motion at a council meeting e.g. at Cabinet or at a meeting of full Council. Use this briefing along with example reports from other areas to help prepare the paper.
- ☐ Maintain the stance that smokefree gated playgrounds is just one part of a whole range of local tobacco control measures e.g. provision of stop smoking support, enforcement of smokefree legislation, tobacco regulation etc., designed to protect children from tobacco-related harm.

Ideas for community engagement

- ☐ Use the opportunity as a vehicle for community engagement: visit parks in the area to gather views of parents and grandparents – smokers and non-smokers – on creating smokefree parks and use the feedback with stakeholders.
- ☐ Explore locally who else could get involved in the discussions e.g. park wardens, play officers, parents, children.

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-e-cigarettes-in-public-places-and-workplaces>

⁹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/684963/Evidence_review_of_e-cigarettes_and_heated_tobacco_products_2018.pdf

- ☐ Work with Fresh and the local authority communications team to develop a communications plan to start letting the public know that the issue is being discussed
- ☐ Consider what would be needed if the policy is given the go-ahead: signs are seen as an integral and necessary part of smokefree gated playground policies. Fresh artwork for signage is freely available by contacting info@fresh-balance.co.uk.
- ☐ Identify any costs that are likely to be attached to the policy, for example the production of signs, time for installation, ongoing monitoring of the policy.
- ☐ Engage with parents and children's groups around publicity if you do make the move to go smokefree.

If there is not the appetite for smokefree gated playgrounds at the time you raise it, bear in mind that this is a topic that can often need persuasion and reinforcement of the potential benefits over time.

Implementation

- ☐ Once the decision to proceed with a policy for smokefree playgrounds has been taken, an implementation plan will need to be in place
- ☐ Liaise with your local printing or signage company to arrange production, and talk to the park managers about installation
- ☐ Revisit the communications plan to let the public know about the positive decision
- ☐ Decide on a launch date, potentially at one of the local parks, and consider inviting the press and stakeholders

Reviewing the policy

- ☐ Identify dates at which to review the policy e.g. six months or one year after implementation. Visit the parks in your area to gather views again and see if any positive impacts have been made
- ☐ Implement a system to monitor any signs that have been installed to ensure they have not been graffitied or removed.

How can this action support tobacco control aims?

The Fresh vision is to reduce adult smoking rates to 5% among the adult population by 2025 and in 2014, all 12 local Health and Wellbeing Boards in the North East endorsed this. Smokefree gated playgrounds is one small part of a much bigger approach towards making smoking history.

Resources

Fresh has developed smokefree gated playgrounds materials for its seven commissioning authorities which includes:

- This briefing for staff, managers and elected members
- Signs for parks which can be localised. Two options are available which can be used in conjunction: one, to highlight that the playground is a smokefree zone; a second which explains that children copy what adults do, therefore we ask that smoking does not take place
- A template press release

SMOKE FREE ZONE



Thank you for not smoking where we play







We copy what
we see, thanks for
keeping our park
smoke free.

Insert LA
logo here

fresh*
Making Smoking History





[Council] backs smoke free playgrounds

CHILDREN and parents are backing a new move from INSERT COUNCIL to create smokefree playgrounds.

From [date], all local authority-run gated outdoor playgrounds in the area will become smokefree zones to discourage children from starting to smoke and to cut cigarette litter which toddlers can pick up.

More than 8 out of 10 people in the North East don't think smoking should be allowed in children's outdoor play areas and 8 out of 10 people would like to see smoking become a thing of the past for future generations¹.

Smokefree playgrounds will also help to protect the environment by reducing discarded cigarette butts - a problem sometimes encountered by parents in parks in the area. Figures show {INSERT} tonnes of cigarette waste is dropped every year and has to be collected in {INSERT AREA}. See **ASH Ready Reckoner tool for local litter figures** <http://ash.lelan.co.uk/>

Children copy what they see, and seeing role models like parents smoking can make children more curious and interested in smoking. Children whose parents or siblings smoke are around three times more likely to smoke than children living in non-smoking households.

In a partnership between the council and Fresh, signs will be installed thanking parents, grandparents or carers for not smoking in the playground.

¹ Figures taken from 2017 and 2015 YouGov surveys on tobacco

Councillor [name and portfolio] said:

“This isn’t about a ban - we are just politely asking parents to respect the fact that playgrounds are for children and children deserve smoke free spaces.

“Most parents support play areas being smoke free, and most parents who smoke are keen to keep it away from their children. We need to do all we can to make sure that our young people do not become smokers, and making playgrounds smokefree zones is an important part of that.”

[Name], Director of Public Health for [locality], said:

“Local authorities are responsible for delivering action to improve public health. We are already supporting smokers to quit and protecting people from tobacco-related harm.

“Playgrounds are places for children to play and we want to ensure playgrounds are places where they can enjoy the slides and the swings in smoke free zones.”

Ailsa Rutter, Director of Fresh, said:

“We applaud [name of] Council for designating all gated outdoor playgrounds smokefree. Most smokers regret ever starting and hate the thought of their children smoking.

“The signs will hopefully discourage smoking in a polite way that thanks smokers for being respectful.”

ENDS

Photo and interview opportunity

[Include details of any public relations activity you have planned, e.g. public launch at local park, who will be available for interviews]

For more information please contact:

[Insert name of communications contact]

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOODHOUSE PARK WORKING PARTY HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE ON WEDNESDAY 14th AUGUST 2019 AT
10.30AM

PRESENT: COUN A LONG (CHAIR)

Messr:- R Moore

Howlatch Resident's Association:- G Pratt

PCSO:- J Duffy

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from J Smith (Direct Steps) and Jack Warne & U Wilding (Howlatch Resident's Association). **AGREED the apologies for absence be accepted and recorded.**

10. Notes from the Woodhouse Park Working Party held on 12th June 2019, a copy of which had been previously circulated were considered and agreed.

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 2 - Community Building

Local Member asked if there was any progress with the porta cabins. The Parks Manager advised unfortunately this building had not been included in the recent building surveys. The Parks Special Projects Officer, (PSPO) reported that the cycle group had been successful with their grant funding bid, however they may be re locating to another parish; on the positive this would mean there would be more storage space for other park users.

(b) Minute Number 2 - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

PCSO Duffy gave an update on the recent operations carried out in the area and of their success. Further operations would be carried out in the Autumn including partner organisations including Believe Housing.

The PSPO reported receipt of a report and recommendations from the Crime Prevention Officer following her onsite visit to the Park. It was agreed this be considered in conjunction with the zoning concept plan that had been produced by the Town Clerk and this be at the next meeting the Community & Environment Committee in September 2019.

The Parks Manager reported his concerns that the soon to be installed play equipment may be vandalised and this was discussed at length. He outlined discussions held with the Town Clerk regarding measures that may be taken should vandalism occur.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised her Team had been tasked with establishing a "Friends of Woodhouse Park" Group and it was hoped this would help with the care and ownership of the new equipment when installed.

AGREED it be noted there was nothing more that could be done, and it was a matter for the Police to handle.

11. Dog Exercise Zone - Signage

It was felt that segregating dog walkers may not be the best way to consider how dogs and their owners and the general public were to best use the Park. It was suggested that perhaps

areas could be defined with red – no go and on leads, and green areas where dogs could be off their leads, but supervised. Encouraging responsible dog ownership was the key. It was **AGREED this suggestion be considered further by the Council when considering the ASB item.**

12. Summer Fun Day, Woodhouse Park, Friday 9 August 2019

Unfortunately, the Fun Day had to be cancelled due to bad weather however the activities that had been scheduled had been re arranged over various days so that there would be a programme of activities instead on 16th, 19th and 23rd of August 2019. This had been done in consultation and agreed with local Members.

13. Skate Park Jam – 24th August 2019

PCSO Duffy advised this event had now been cancelled due to resources being required to tackle other issues including ASB. It was hoped a winter event would be arranged.

14. Date and time of the next meeting

AGREED the next meeting be held on 18th September 2019 at 10.30am, Shotton Hall.