

Planning Committee - 22 July 2009

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Miscellaneous Item

Planning application and enforcement issues at Taunton Vale Hockey Club, Gipsy Lane, Taunton

Members may recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 25 February 2009 the Committee resolved to take action against the Taunton Vale Hockey Club for failure to comply with a Breach of Condition notice requiring a set of floodlights at the site to be shielded.

Members further considered the issue at the meeting of the Committee on the 15 April 2009 when Members considered an application to vary the condition to allow a scheme that would not provide shielding, but which the Hockey Club considered would not have a detrimental impact on the nearby residential properties. The matter was deferred for further specialist advice to be sought.

Subsequently, the Council's advisor has confirmed that he believes the only acceptable solution is for the lights to be shielded. As the Hockey Club had indicated that shielding was not feasible, the Hockey Club was asked to submit their justification in writing.

As part of that process the Hockey Club want to take light readings in the gardens of some of the affected properties in Whitmore Road and Wyndham Road and have been in discussions with the residents in order to achieve this. The residents however do not accept that the taking of readings at this time of year is going to be representative of the problem they suffer in the winter when the leaves are not on the trees. It has therefore not been possible for the Hockey Club to take the readings and respond.

The purpose of this report is to update Members as to the present position. Whilst the Officers will continue to encourage dialogue between the parties it seems unlikely any further progress will be made until agreement as to the timing of the readings can be reached.

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