

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Planning Committee – 21 April 2010

Miscellaneous Item relating to enforcement action at Taunton Vale Sports Club, Gypsy Lane, Taunton

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Background

Members may recall that there has been a long standing issue at the Taunton Vale Sports Club with complaints, since the facilities were first erected, that the condition intended to prevent floodlights shining into nearby residential properties was not being complied with.

Various attempts have been made over the years to resolve the issue between the Club and the local residents but without success. When the second phase of development took place in 2008 a further condition was imposed requiring the original floodlights to be shielded to afford the intended protection to the local residents.

The shielding was not carried out although the angle of the lights was altered to improve the situation. The local residents still complained of lights shining into the rear of their properties. As a consequence in October 2008 a Breach of Condition Notice was served requiring compliance with the condition requiring shielding. This led to further discussions and some further alterations to the floodlights.

The alterations did further improve the position and the Club applied for a variation of the condition which would require the lights to be maintained as they were at that stage. However, when the application was reported to Committee, Members heard that the local residents were still suffering light intrusion and deferred the application for further technical advice.

The present position

The Club subsequently agreed to fix the shields as required by the original condition and this was done in December 2009. A recent visit to the Club and the adjacent properties has confirmed that the shields have been fitted and, although the local residents still have some reservations, the view of the officers is that the condition has now been complied with.

In addition, the residents also have concerns about the lighting of the car park at the Club, which they also find intrusive. This lighting is not conditioned and is similar to orange street lighting. The Club have agreed to look at altering the angles of these lights on a voluntary basis.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the Report and agree that no further action be taken against the Taunton Vale Sports Club in respect of the earlier breach of condition.

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Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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