

REPORT TO: Licensing Sub-Committee

MEETING DATE: 14 February 2013

BY: Executive Director (Support Services)

SUBJECT: Complaint re use of Bleachingfield, Dunbar as a venue for Funfairs

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Sub-committee of the complaint received concerning the Bleachingfield, Dunbar being used as a venue for funfairs

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee consider the terms of the complaint received and the comments received relative thereto and decide whether or not this should remain as a venue for funfairs or whether consultation should be initiated regarding an alternative site

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Bleachingfield, Dunbar is an area of ground owned by East Lothian Council. It has been agreed with elected members as an official showground site and had been used for that purpose for some time.
- 3.2 A complaint has been received in respect of the use of the site for this purpose. Said letter of complaint is attached to this report and is referred to for its terms.
- 3.3 Following receipt of the complaint, relevant departments and officials were contacted for comments. Lothian & Borders Police have indicated that they would support the complaint and suggest Winterfield Park as an alternate venue. Environmental Health confirmed that they had received one complaint about noise on the last occasion the venue was used for a funfair. They were investigating their records for more details- if received these will be imparted verbally at the meeting. Comments are also awaited at time of writing from the Transportation Department.

- 3.4 Landscape & Countryside responded as owners of the site. They advise that the Bleachingfield is the official showground site and that they have no issue with it being used as such. They advise that they take a £500 bond from all the show people which is used, if necessary, to repair any damage to the site, so that the Council is not left out of pocket in respect of any such repairs.

They indicate that compacting of ground and poor drainage has been a problem on site for many years and that they are monitoring the problem. It is not possible to prove that the shows are the cause of this issue. Finally, they advise that the only alternative site is Winterfield Park which is not favoured by the show people due to lack of facilities and reluctance of the public to go there for shows. They suggest that any proposal to switch to this as a venue for shows would require a public consultation before being implemented.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None- both sites are in Council ownership and control.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – There will be a cost should a public consultation be held
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1

AUTHOR'S NAME	Morag Ferguson
DESIGNATION	Corporate Legal Advisor
CONTACT INFO	Ian Forrest, Senior Solicitor,x7389
DATE	31 January 2013

16 JAN 2013

I have listed below and overleaf points of objection to the Bleachingfield being used as a venue for "Fun Fairs".

* History of scarred field having to be repaired at cost to council (taxpayer) after visit.

Compaction of field by heavy machinery -- causing poor drainage and flooding.

* Near proximity to residential housing.

* Alternative sites available.

* Break-up and disruption of T.U signal and Broadband wifi.

* High levels of (RED?) Diesel exhaust fumes containing PARTICULATES which according to a W.H.O. report are cancer causing.

- * Loud engines running during set-up and noisy maintenance done out of opening hours
- * Stadium level - powerfully amplified - LOUD repetitive music (thudding Bass) turned on/off and up/down; reverberating through walls and closed windows - accompanied by loud D.J. type shouting, locally described "like living in a Disco".

In APRIL 2012 the "Noise enforcement Team" found the noise exceeded the acceptable decibel level

This has a profound affect on family life - and I urge the committee to reflect on this - and how they would respond if this was opposite their home.

Yours

