

**REPORT TO:** Licensing Sub-Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 9 May 2013

**BY:** Executive Director (Support Services)

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

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise the Sub-Committee of the views of local members regarding the question of the Bleachingfield.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That, in the light of the responses received regarding the matter, the Sub-Committee note the complaint and agree to continue to monitor the situation in future.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A report was submitted to the Sub-Committee meeting on 14 February 2013 regarding a complaint received from a local resident regarding nuisance being caused by funfairs being held at the Bleachingfield, Dunbar. The site is owned by the Council and has been used as an official showground site for some time.
- 3.2 Views were sought from Lothian & Borders Police and from the Council's Landscape & Countryside division as owners of the site. The Police were supportive of the complaint and proposed Winterfield as an alternative location. Landscape & Countryside indicated that the site is an official showground and they had no issue with it continuing to be used as such. They also confirmed that a Bond of £500 was taken from all funfair/show organisers to cover the cost of any damage to the site, and that it was not in their view possible to prove that the shows using the site were the cause of damage mentioned in the complaint. Finally, they indicated that Winterfield was not favoured as an alternative location due to lack of facilities and reluctance of the public to go there.

- 3.3 The Sub-Committee resolved to continue consideration of the complaint to allow for a possible site visit during the next funfair to be held. This has not been possible as there have been no funfairs held on site since receipt of the complaint. There are no current applications to use the site at this time.
- 3.4 The Sub-Committee further resolved to seek the views of local members regarding the matter. I would advice that responses have been received from local members. Councillor Hampshire is supportive of the site continuing to be used for funfairs etc. He notes that the site has been used as such for over 70 years and that the fair organisers work closely with the Police to avoid problems. He also notes that the Community Council recently discussed the matter and were also supportive of the site continuing to be used for this purpose.
- 3.5 Councillor McLennan was in favour of the site continuing to be used but with a warning to organisers that further issues causing complaints could see the matter being reviewed in future. Councillor Veitch expressed some concern with the site due to noise nuisance and noted the Police being supportive of the complaint. He requested more information about the level of complaints and whether Winterfield would be likely to generate similar complaints. At the time of writing this report he has not offered any further comments.
- 3.6 The Sub-Committee now require to consider the various views received from Police, Landscape & Countryside, and Local members, with a view to determining an appropriate response relative to the complaint received.

#### **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 - None
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

### 7.1 Report to Licensing Sub-Committee 14.2.13

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Morag Ferguson
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Corporate Legal Advisor
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	Ian Forrest, Senior Solicitor, x7389
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