

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 15 JANUARY 2009

## REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

## CARAVAN PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION SEASONAL OPENING HOURS 2009

<b>Abstract:</b> To report and seek approval of the proposed seasonal opening times of the Council's Caravan Parks and Outdoor Recreations during the 2009 season.
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**1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Neighbourhood Services Committee approve the proposed seasonal opening hours as set out in this report.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The 2004 Best Value Review of Leisure Services recommended that the opening hours of the Caravan Parks and Outdoor Recreations should be reviewed with the aim of focusing the service provision against periods when the highest level of demand occurred. This led to a reduction in opening hours including limitations being placed on toilet opening hours. A full review is carried out at the end of each season and where possible the opening hours have been adjusted to meet customer demand.
- 2.2 The reduced availability of toilet facilities outwith peak times at Outdoor Recreation facilities, in particular at the Blue Seaway, Monifieth and the Seafront Splash, Montrose continues to attract some criticism from members of the public.
- 2.3 In order to partly remedy this situation revenue funding was provided by Montrose Common Good fund in 2005 to extend the opening hours of the toilet at Seafront Splash. Due to little usage of the service provision the service was discontinued in 2006.
- 2.4 The toilet provision at the Blue Seaway was reopened at weekends from October 2007. This addition to the facilities service provision is funded directly from Community Services revenue budget. The reopening of these toilets was taken forward on a pilot basis only, with a view to measuring actual usage. The results indicated a very low usage and a decision was taken to discontinue the winter opening.
- 2.5 As approved by last year's committee report 193/08, in 2008 all Outdoor Recreation Facilities were programmed to close on Sunday 21 September. However it was later agreed to accommodate requests from local members to extend the opening hours of the toilets at Monifieth, Arbroath and Montrose until after the October holidays. This decision was homologated at last year's committee's meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008 975/08 . All costs were contained within existing budgets.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The proposed opening times are outlined in [Appendix 1](#). The appendix should be considered in conjunction with the information detailed below which outlines the main changes from the financial year 2008/2009

- 3.2 Outdoor Recreation

Due to monitored demands, the Outdoor Recreation facilities will open one hour later and close one hour earlier.

Forfar, Lochside Outdoor Recreations will be operated from within Lochside Leisure Centre and will be given the flexibility to alter their opening hours to accommodate changes in demand.

The Outdoor Recreation facilities will close at the end of August rather than mid September.

### 3.3 Caravan Parks

With reference to committee report 606/08 the three existing caravan parks have been advertised for lease and will only be managed by Neighbourhood Services if we are unable to attract suitable tenants.

In line with the previous season all caravan parks will open on the 13<sup>th</sup> March and close on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October if they remain under the management of the Council.

### 3.4 Toilet Provision

The toilets at Arbroath, West Links, Monifieth, Blue Seaway and Montrose, Seafront Splash will remain open until the end of the October school holiday period (18<sup>th</sup> October 2009).

## 4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no additional financial implications as a result of the new opening hours. All facilities will be operated from within approved existing revenue budgets.

## 5. **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no Human Rights issues associated with this report.

## 6. **CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 7. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The issues dealt within this report have been the subject of consideration from the equalities perspective (as required by the legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

**RON ASHTON  
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

**CommunityServices/NS/JRZ/AW**