

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 16 AUGUST 2012

## DESIGNATED SPORTS GROUNDS AND REGULATED STANDS IN ANGUS

## REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

**ABSTRACT**

This Report deals with the annual inspection by the [Tayside Sports Grounds Safety Team of Gayfield Park, Arbroath](#), and the regulated stands at [Links Park, Montrose](#), [Glebe Park, Brechin](#) and [Station Park, Forfar](#).

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the annual inspections of the sports ground at Gayfield Park, Arbroath and the regulated stands at Links Park, Montrose, Glebe Park, Brechin and Station Park, Forfar;
- (ii) to note that General Safety Certificates have been issued to Arbroath, Brechin, Forfar and Montrose Football Clubs effective from 1 July 2012 and that these Certificates will continue to have effect unless amended, varied or transferred; and
- (iii) to remit to the Tayside Sports Grounds Safety Team to follow up the various matters raised in the Inspection Reports with the Clubs concerned.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Under Section 1 of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, sports grounds designated by the Secretary of State, being sports grounds with accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators, require a General Safety Certificate. There is one such sports ground so designated in Angus, namely Gayfield Park, Arbroath and a General Safety Certificate has been issued in respect of that ground.

Section 26 of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 requires that a General Safety Certificate be issued in respect of stands for 500 or more spectators, referred to as "regulated stands" in sports grounds which are **not** designated under the 1975 Act. There are three non-designated sports grounds in Angus, namely Links Park, Montrose, Glebe Park, Brechin and Station Park, Forfar for which General Safety Certificates have been issued in respect of the regulated stands at these grounds.

It is recommended good practice that any sports ground or regulated stand which is the subject of a General Safety Certificate should be inspected annually. This is done by the Tayside Sports Grounds Safety Team which follows up these inspections with formal Reports on the outcome to the certifying authority (ie Angus Council). This year, the Team undertook the inspections in April so that the formal Reports could be given to the Clubs during the close season and allow them time to carry out any immediate action. It was also agreed that Certificates should be reissued before the start of the 2012/2013 football season.

**3. 2012 INSPECTIONS**

The 2012 inspections of the Angus grounds/stands took place on Friday 20 April and copies of the Reports on the Team's findings are **attached**. All of the Clubs were sent a copy of the Inspection Report pertaining to their ground/stands on 11 June so that they could make any comment prior to the Certificates being issued.

Members will note from the attached inspection reports that a number of issues remained to be actioned, however the Inspection Team regarded these as general housekeeping in nature. Follow-up visits were carried out where necessary before the issue of the Safety Certificates.

#### **4. NEW SAFETY CERTIFICATES**

The Tayside Sports Grounds Team have reviewed the format of the Safety Certificates with a view to simplifying them and also, where possible, achieving a consistency of approach across the Tayside area. As part of this review the practice of issuing Certificates on an annual basis was also considered.

As a result, the Certificates that were issued to the clubs in the close season have an effective date of 1 July and remain in effect unless they require amendment. Members will note that under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers the Head of Law and Administration is authorised to issue a prohibition notice under the Safety in Sports Grounds Act 1975.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

The Inspection Reports indicate that appropriate efforts have been made by the clubs to deal with spectator safety within the limited resources available to them. Nevertheless, the Tayside Sports Grounds Safety Team will continue to monitor the situation at each ground in Angus on a regular basis and, if necessary, will advise the Council on whether any action is necessary in connection with the Safety Certificates.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

#### **7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this Report.

#### **8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

#### **9. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Head of Planning and Transport, Head of Roads and Tayside Police have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

COLIN McMAHON  
Director of Corporate 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 any material extent in preparing the above Report.