

DECISION SESSION CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Annex of additional comments received since the agenda was published.

Agenda Item	Report	Received from	Comments
4	Refresh of the Council's Events Protocol Pages 7-18	Residents at 2 Abbotsway	I have only just heard about the move to grant a license for events on the stray. I can't believe the council would consider this and thus defy the weight of opinion against the move only recently expressed. Please register my and my families objection to any such move and look again at last year's protests.
		Residents of 151 Pottery Lane	<p>We live in the streets near to Monk Stray and wish to strongly object to the inclusion of Monk Stray in this protocol.</p> <p>The stray already has problems with under-age drinking and anti social behaviour and changing the protocol to allow the holding of events and selling alcohol will only exacerbate this problem.</p> <p>The stray is already a very busy area next to a main road and to hold events on the stray will distract motorists. Extra traffic in this residential area will increase the risks to both older people and young children. The sale of alcohol at venues which drivers will attend is very</p>

			<p>irresponsible and creates dangers to those people living nearby.</p> <p>Events on the stray are bound to create public nuisance. The cycle race in 2009 was a classic example, announcements from the loud speakers could be heard in streets quite a way from the stray and car parking was a major problem with streets being packed with parked cars and a number of driveways being blocked. Add to this the noise and nuisance of a helicopter circling around the locally disturbing pets and other wildlife.</p> <p>The car park (behind Straylands Grove) floods and could not be used during the Rugby 7's competition, in recent years, resulting in cars parking in all the streets near the ground causing problems.</p> <p>Changing this protocol will increase the risks to children. Increased traffic presents dangers to them and to allow them to attend events where alcohol is sold will create temptation and put them at risk.</p> <p>The changing of this protocol is totally unacceptable. The stray should be kept as an open space for all residents to enjoy and there has been no need for such a change in the last 40 to 50 years –so why now?</p>
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		Resident of Muncastergate	<p>We live in Muncastergate, and strongly object to the proposed application for an entertainment and alcohol Licence.</p> <p>The Stray should be kept as an open space for the pleasure of all residents to enjoy.</p>
		Resident of 13 Elmfield Terrace	<p>I have just been informed by my local councillor Nigel Ayre that the Council is proposing to use the strays of York for outside events.</p> <p>I first wish to object strongly to the amount of time allowed to object to this proposal and to the fact that no public notice to inform residents of the council's intention has been made in any way.</p> <p>I object strongly to the proposal to use the strays in this way. Strays should be kept as open areas to be used by every citizen and not to be treated as places of entertainment.</p> <p>I live on Elmfield Terrace adjacent to Monk Stray and all my neighbours are against the council's proposals. Last year when notices appeared on the entrances to the stray applying for a drinks licence for events to be held on the stray it was the first time local residents knew of the council's plans. The licensing officer received over 150 letters of objection to the granting of a licence and due to</p>

			<p>the growing public outcry, eventually dropped the application. You would certainly have received more objections to your present proposals now if this meeting had been announced and local residents had had the chance to know the council's plans and the time to raise objections. A deadline for objections of 5.00pm on 9th of September is unacceptable when residents are unaware of what is being discussed and decided by their representatives. The meeting should be delayed and all residents of the city informed so that those who you serve have an opportunity to argue their opinions and voice their strongly felt objections.</p> <p>Monk Stray is a wonderful open space where children play creatively every day, dogs are regularly exercised, many residents just walk and joggers run. Why spoil such an idyllic area with so called events?</p> <p>These type of events would lead to crime and disorder. This area has already proved difficult to police as it provides cover for drug taking and dealing, under age drinking, drunkenness, rowdiness, vandalism, and general anti social behaviour. Police have rarely been able to attend calls from residents (many elderly) around the stray</p>
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			<p>and when police cars do manage to appear the miscreants disappear in every direction.</p> <p>Events will create public nuisance to residents over a wide area. Many of the houses and flats front onto the stray and events will be within hearing distance of these homes. Car parking is another public nuisance. Houses near to the intended parking area (to the rear of Straylands Grove) will be affected by the noise of car doors banging and engines revving up late at night . This area soon becomes flooded and for the Rugby Sevens in 2009 it became unusable resulting in cars parked in the surrounding streets blocking driveways etc. The same scenario applied during the finish of the cycle race on the stray and many of the businesses in Heworth village lost trade in the afternoon due to lack of parking spaces.</p> <p>Public safety of the elderly and young children in the area will be put at risk by the increased numbers of cars and people milling around them.</p> <p>The possibility of applications being made to sell alcohol on the strays is very worrying. It is difficult enough to control in licensed premises so in an open area with very little supervision</p>
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			<p>would allow young teenagers easy access to drink. It would also allow drug dealers to move freely and unobserved amongst their target customers - namely teenagers.</p> <p>Monk Stray is part of our heritage and history and should be kept clear at all times as an open space to be enjoyed by all. The grass will be damaged by lorries delivering equipment and the hedges on Stockton Lane and Malton Road being breached by interlopers and gatecrashers. The hedges were badly damaged during the cycle race and the gaps created have never been filled. It is not a large area like the Knavesmire where events can be held a long way from households. On Monk Stray houses front directly onto the grassed areas and residents will be seriously affected by the events proposed.</p> <p>The council must delay this meeting, inform all residents of the proposals, consult with local residents and ask their opinions and views before any decisions are made regarding the use of Monk Stray.</p> <p>Have the new Labour Council not learned a lesson from the proposed sale of Union Terrace.</p>
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		<p>Resident of 5 Elmfield Terrace</p>	<p>I am writing about the Events Protocol for Parks and Open Spaces as it refers to Monk Stray.</p> <p>I feel the policy should be changed so it is against allowing large events such as circuses, fairs, end of cycle races, ice rinks etc. Monk Stray easily becomes water logged - even in summer large areas have been under water. Such events would lead to it being churned up and damaged so the many residents who use it for jogging, playing football and cricket, flying kites and walking dogs, which are not allowed elsewhere, would be adversely affected.</p> <p>Monk Stray is very close to several houses and the noise, especially from amplified music or tannoys, would severely affect residents.</p> <p>Parking has already caused severe problems. I assume the thought is to use the uncut part of Monk Stray but this was unable to be used for the Rugby 7s because it was waterlogged and cars were parked in all surrounding streets causing obstructions and difficulties.</p> <p>Any events wanting to serve alcohol should not be allowed. The Stray already has drink and drug problems which are hard</p>
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			<p>to police. As it is an open area the serving of alcohol at events would be hard to manage and control.</p> <p>I also object to the idea of Monk Stray being hired out for private events. It is a public space and access should not be restricted to only certain people at any time.</p> <p>The previous policy was suppose to run until 2013. There has been no notification by the council to the local community about the early policy review and so people have had little time to give their views.</p>
		Resident of 4 Elmfield Terrace	<p>We would like you to restrict the possible events which could take place on Monk Stray.</p> <p>We have taken a look at the proposals, which at first glance look similar to the previous ones. We recognize your wish to promote the public spaces, but wonder, yet again, why you fail to ask the local residents what events they feel would be suitable for the sites in question. One extra thing we would note is the suggestion for beer festivals "subject to alcohol restrictions"! This makes us wonder if this document has been thought through adequately.</p>

			<p>We feel that all the objections (not just the 157 deemed legitimate) that were last year made regarding a licence for events on Monk Stray should be read out at this meeting. It would seem that to continue to wish to promote such events would fly in the face of public opinion.</p> <p>Most objections cited the lack of consultation in the protocol process at any time, as the first residents knew about this was when a licence notice went up on the Stray. The fact that these events could in theory take place every day of the year with no limitation caused real consternation.</p> <p>Some objections were on the grounds of noisy events being too close to residential property, with references made to loudspeakers at a cycle race being heard over a mile away. This was unpleasant distorted noise.</p> <p>Parking was seen as a big problem with local roads being too narrow for access and no parking available other than on the Stray itself.</p> <p>Some freemen objected that the council was willing to use the land as if they owned it, not just managed it for the benefit of the citizens of York.</p>
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			<p>Some remembered a circus and funfair held many years ago which left the space muddy, churned up and full of litter.</p> <p>Most people remembered a cycle race which caused litter, noise and disturbance and seriously inconvenienced residents because roads were shut and visitors parked their cars across driveways.</p> <p>There were objections on the grounds of public safety because of increased traffic, and also safety of children.</p> <p>However, many people were willing to compromise on a limited number of events, providing that they were to be restricted to a maximum number per year, with a maximum number of people who might be allowed to attend, and a minimum distance of 150m away from residential property, and that these events should be carefully monitored by the council to check that they were properly run and caused no problem. Each event should have its own licence application and be reviewed on its merits.</p> <p>Otherwise we think that people will feel betrayed, having voiced opinions so clearly in the first place.</p> <p>So, is the council going to fly in the face of public opinion and</p>
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			<p>rubber stamp these latest proposals, or are they going to take into account those strong opinions expressed 14 months ago by local residents and others?</p> <p>Why not have proper public consultation and find out what we really want? Is the council scared of opinion?</p> <p>To change the character of a quiet haven of open space in a busy city for the sake of a few events and a paltry profit is totally unjustified when it is not what your citizens actually want. Have you researched public opinion at all to show that people want these quiet open spaces to become lively and busy? Certainly we have never seen any letters in the paper to support this view or anything published by the council's own newspaper to suggest such a survey has ever been undertaken. Our own view is that amplified music and other sound, alcohol and food sales and events run for commercial profit where a public space would be closed to a public with no ticket, should be considered as unsuitable, and that all other events should be carefully looked at in terms of access, parking, size and particularly distance from residential property, when deciding on their suitability. It should be up to the organizers to prove that an</p>
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			<p>event would be in the public interest and managed appropriately. Do not think that there is a lot of money to be made out of festivals – recent experience since the recession has shown festivals have actually made a loss. To upset your residents and then waste public money in doing so could be seen as trying to justify council jobs!</p>
		Resident of 19 Muncastergate	<p>I write once again to object to the Council's proposed plans for 'events' at Monk Stray. I walk my dog on the Stray at least twice every day. My objections are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The area is an open space for family use. It is surrounded by residential properties. Events that encourage drinking in the daytime or evening are not appropriate. * Music (whether live or recorded) in such a space also becomes extremely noisy and is not appropriate * There is no suitable place for car parking. The Heworth/Stockton Lane roundabout is extremely busy and the streets surrounding the Stray are narrow and also busy * Children from surrounding houses like to play football/cricket on the stray.

			<p>They often do so accompanied only by an older brother/sister. It is likely that these family outings will be spoiled if the area is going to be used by alcohol fuelled adults/adolescents on a regular basis.</p> <p>* York Council seem to be determined to spoil quiet family places against the wishes of residents who pay their taxes and therefore pay said Council</p>
		Resident of 19 Muncastergate	<p>It has come to my notice that CYC are proposing to introduce changes to the use of Monk Stray which may include various forms of entertainment and the sale of alcohol and wish to record my objections on a number of grounds.</p> <p>1. The fact that as far as I can find this has not been publicised to give residents who will be affected an opportunity to consider the effect this will have on their lives and environment. I would have thought this would have been included in a Ward Committee News Letter which CYC are all too ready to say that they are used to keep us informed.</p> <p>2. I have always understood that CYC manage the use of the Strays on behalf of the Straymasters and that any significant changes need their agreement. What are the Conditions of the agreement</p>

			<p>and have they been consulted?</p> <p>3. As far as I am aware, historically, citizens have enjoyed free and unrestricted access to the Strays for recreation, under the proposed changes will this be available or will it be restricted?</p> <p>4. It is likely that we will be subjected to a repeat of the arrangements put in place for the Cycle Race when the only access to the 100 plus properties on the Muncaster Estate was closed for some time for the completion of the event which lasted for all of 10 seconds.</p> <p>5. Can we rely on CYC to make good any damage to the Stray as a result of any Events being stated? Because if your track record is anything to go by it is very unlikely. Some of the notices for the event were still attached to road sign posts 11 months afterwards and some of the gaps broken through the hedge are still not made good and those which have are not appropriate, very poor posts and rails are evident in some, others have been removed and no attempt was made to replant the hedge. So much for a responsible use of a historic public space.</p> <p>6. Should it be necessary to use anything approaching a</p>
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			<p>'heavy' vehicle to service any Event, what provisions will be made to protect the surface of the Stray because if there has been a period of wet weather, walking is sometimes a problem.</p> <p>7. Will any measures be put in place to limit the noise from a public address system or music amplification the level of which last time was totally unacceptable and that was without my hearing aids.</p> <p>8. What arrangements will be made for car parking? There have been problems in the past with uncontrolled parking in residential streets in the area much to the inconvenience of home owners.</p> <p>9. Are there not other open areas available for such Events which are not in close proximity to housing.</p> <p>There are other issues Public Safety, Crime and Disorder, Public Nuisance generally and others but the overriding issue to me is why has there been no Public Consultation or don't the local people matter!</p> <p>I urge CYC to reconsider any amendment to the use of Monk Stray</p>
		Residents of 3 Elmfield	With reference to the change of events protocol of open spaces,

		<p>Terrace</p> <p>proposed by Ms Cooper:</p> <p>I notice that you are changing the way in which you intend to use open parks. As I live just three metres from Monks Stray, I feel strongly about this issue.</p> <p>A year ago the then Lib Dem Council wanted a licence for events on the Stray and every local resident was opposed to this blanket licence. I am concerned that it will be your intention again to ask for a blanket licence 365 days a year, including loud music and sales of food and alcohol. I was particularly stressed. I suffer from bi-polar disorder and extra stress can tip me over so that I need up to a year in Bootham Hospital. When there was a cycle race and the Council closed the roads, I arrived on the opposite side of the Stray by bus, and they would not let me cross over the road to get home. With all the loud speakers going and lots of people, I was close to a panic attack. Now I think it could happen again. The Council have used Elmfield Terrace to house people with mental disabilities and chosen it for peace and quiet and supportive local residents.</p> <p>My husband Alwyne works nights so tries to sleep during the day. He is not happy at the idea of loudspeakers or</p>
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			<p>amplified music on any part of Monks Stray, though he can sleep through the natural sounds of children playing ballgames etc, right outside the window.</p> <p>There are some community events that would be nice on the Stray, also some children's activities we think the Council should consult local people before organizing each event. Some residents would get involved and help and sometimes they would point out problems before they arise, to avoid difficulties and complaints. When the Council does things in a sneaky way, we just feel scared that all they want is to make money from big commercial events. We want to be able to trust our Council and have them trust the people they are supposed to serve. So please delay your decision on this protocol until after you have consulted, so you can make all the necessary amendments which local people want to see.</p>
		Local Resident	<p>I understand from my neighbours that there are proposals for the Monk Stray to be granted an entertainment licence including permitting sale and consumption of alcohol on the stray and the holding of large scale events at any time of the year.</p> <p>I write to express my strongest</p>

			<p>opposition to this proposal.</p> <p>I live at 18 Muncastergate. The stray is at the end of my street and I walk my dog on the stray almost every day of the year. I do not think it is a suitable venue for large scale events for various reasons.</p> <p>1. There is not any suitable parking in the vicinity of the Stray.</p> <p>Muncastergate is a private road and I do not want it to become a default car park because there are not enforceable double yellow lines on it.</p> <p>Muncastergate is not a wide road and it is easily congested by parking on the road side.</p> <p>2. The Stray suffers already from waterlogging. Large scale events would seriously damage the turf on the stray leaving it a mud bath for those of us who use the stray on a daily basis. It is not right to have a few large events that ruin the locale for those of us who live here.</p> <p>3. I do not approve of the sale of alcohol on the Stray. It is not a venue for parties and there is already substantial litter from cans and bottles on and around the stray making it unhygienic and unsafe for children and dogs to play on. Large scale events would only make it worse.</p>
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			<p>In sum, I would like to see the council reject this proposal outright. If however, my views are not represented by the elected council, I will coordinate with my neighbours to appeal your decision and make sure that the voices of those who live here are properly heard.</p>
		Residents of Muncastergate	<p>We are writing to voice our objection to Monk Stray being used for commercial purposes. It is a lovely green open space which is available for use by members of the public and to use it for any commercial events would be detrimental to the area.</p>