



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
Leisure & Culture

Charging Policies Leisure & Culture Facilities Friday 2nd November 2012 Minute of Meeting

Attendance

Margaret Cooper	Councillor
Claire Diggle	Arts Development Officer (Voluntary Sector) SLLC
Mason Stewart	Stonehouse Old Folks Welfare Committee
W McLeish	Stonehouse Old Folks Welfare Committee
Robert Craig	Stonehouse Community Council
Josephine Gillies	Halls Manager SLLC
Benny Martin	Cultural Services Manager SLLC
Iain Walker	Outdoor Recreation & Country Park Manager SLLC
Marion Russell	Avondale Bowling Green (Treasurer)
Alan Newberry	Outdoor & Country Parks SLLC
Linda Frater	Cultural Facilities Officer SLLC

Introduction

Councillor Cooper chaired the meeting and began by welcoming and thanking everyone for their attendance. Councillor Cooper then explained the background to the meeting which was to discuss the charges being applied by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC), for the Barrie Shelter in Strathaven and Stonehouse Lifestyles.

Avondale Bowling Club

Marion Russell from Avondale Bowling Green gave an overview of her group saying they are a Senior Citizens Group with 9 members who use the Barrie Shelter for their bowling and their fees for the year are £377.60. MR said that she felt this was excessive and that other groups of seniors were receiving free use of halls and asked why they did not.

Iain Walker explained that the Barrie Shelter sits in the Leisure Portfolio of the Trust and that there are currently two different policies in place within SLLC re charges. IW indicated that under the current Leisure policy the charge would need to remain and that the only solution at this time would be to look at external funding options until the policy is reviewed. IW did suggest that help with equipment could be available for the Avondale Bowling Club.

<p>It was agreed that the group would look at external funding for the next few years as a stop gap until the charging policies are reviewed. SLLC Voluntary Arts Development Officer Claire Diggle will look to assist the group with Funding Applications.</p> <p>MR also informed the meeting that the WRI in Glassford are currently charged for their lets and the WRI in Chapelton receive free lets. It was agreed that Halls Manager Jo Gillies would investigate this matter and get back to Marion.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper spoke briefly about the different charging policies and her intention to propose a review of the policies.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>JG</p>
<p>Stonehouse Old Folks Welfare Committee</p>	
<p>Councillor Cooper then invited Mason Stewart to talk about the issues his group had with the charges at Stonehouse Lifestyles.</p> <p>MS indicated that when Stonehouse Old Folks Welfare Committee met previously in Stonehouse Institute for their lets, they received free lets for their afternoon meetings and were charge about £55 for their evening socials. He then indicated that the evening socials became free of charge.</p> <p>MS advised that he had not been involved in the consultation meetings regarding the new Stonehouse Lifestyles but was told by JG that their charges would remain the same as they had been in Stonehouse Institute. MS advised that he was not made aware of the new policy and the charges that would be applied for social events and suggested that his group's fees have almost trebled, plus additional charges of £30 for use of kitchen and PRS Fees have also been added.</p> <p>MS highlighted that they are a Senior Citizens Group with a committee of 10 people who are not paid. They provide day time provision and social interaction to 90 people of Stonehouse and have about 120 people who attend their social evenings. They try to provide services as cheaply as possible and they have a £10 per person annual membership fee that is paid. They have not applied for any community grants through South Lanarkshire Council but they did receive equipment through a Lottery Grant.</p> <p>Cultural Services Manager Benny Martin outlined the background to the charges structure and policy for Halls which was approved by South Lanarkshire Council's Executive Committee and introduced in April 2010. BM explained that the charging structure within halls is based on the size of the accommodation and three charging categories: - Community, Social and Commercial. He also explained the charge for the kitchen was a standard charge when the kitchen was being used, often by external catering companies, to prep and serve meals.</p> <p>BM went on to explain that as part of the charges review the</p>	<p>CD</p>

<p>Free Lets Policy window for Senior Citizen groups was extended to 10pm for their core activities but there were no concessions for Social Events.</p> <p>BM also suggested that while the social rate would apply for the group's events we would ask CD to work with them and assist with grant applications to external funders. CD will explore what grants would be suitable for them to apply for before meeting the group to assist accordingly.</p> <p>With regards to MS's point that his group had not paid for their previous social function, JG advised that this was regrettable but had been due to a clerical error.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper asked Robert Craig for his views and he suggested that the structure is all wrong and that grant funding from South Lanarkshire Council to pay for lets was not the answer as it was only moving money from one part of the Council to another. RC felt strongly that there should be a separate category for Senior Citizens Groups and that the Council and Trust need to look at the policies and the administration of the policies.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper reiterated her intent to speak with her colleagues regarding the harmonisation of policies and seek support from colleagues and wider groups.</p> <p>WM indicated that the group do not want to increase their fees as they are trying to encourage social interaction within the community. WM also asked for clarification on PRS Charges.</p> <p>BM explained that PRS was the Performing Rights Society who deals with live and recorded music and that the process for recording these has become more stringent and this has resulted in charges having to be passed to customers. BM indicated that the group may want to apply for a yearly licence directly to PRS if this would work out cheaper. CD will also discuss PRS with the group when they meet.</p> <p>MS & WM went on to raise issues regarding washing up of dishes within the facility. This was noted and would be dealt with separately from this meeting.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>CD</p>
Conclusions/ Next Steps	
<p>Claire Diggle will assist both groups with grant applications.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper to speak with her colleagues and other parties suggesting a review of charging policies.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution to a very positive at the meeting.</p>	<p>CD</p>