

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT

Councillor S. Thomas, in the Chair.
Councillors O. J. Baskerville and J. Holden

In attendance

Adrian Fisher	Director of Growth and Regulatory Services
Suzanne Whittaker	Regulatory Services Manager (Environmental Health)
Nicola Duckworth	Team Leader (Environmental Health and Safety at Sports Grounds)
Graeme Dixon	Environmental Health Officer
Harry Callaghan	Democratic Officer

Also in attendance

Michael Hewson	Operations Director – Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC)
Steve Neill	Head of Safety and Security – LCCC
Jim Liggett	Director of Operations – Manchester United Football Club (MUFC)
Jon Hornby	Deputy Head of Safety and Security – MUFC
Laura Griffiths	Resilience Manager – North West Ambulance Services (NWAS)

12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions from the public were received.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the meeting 15 January 2020, be approved as an accurate record.

14. ANNUAL SAFETY REPORT LANCASHIRE CRICKET CLUB 2022-23

The Operations Director and Head of Safety and Security at Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC) presented the report to the sub-Committee which outlined the issues associated with all aspects of spectator safety within and under the control of Lancashire Cricket Safety Management throughout the 2023 season.

Several areas were raised to the sub-Committee. This included a 100-bed extension to the hotel connected to the ground and the introduction of the new 100 ball cricket game, the Hundred.

The Head of Safety Security reassured the sub-Committee that safety at LCCC had moved forward considerably. Members were informed that the planning for 2024 concerts had begun.

Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee (22.1.24)

The sub-Committee were referred to the events at a short notice T20 quarter final on the 7th July. With competing events across the region, LCCC were unable to get agency stewards, and unqualified staff were in position. The Committee were reassured that LCCC now only accept trained staff to work in safety critical positions. The measures in place during the Ashes were also highlighted to the sub-Committee.

In summary, the Head of Safety and Security – LCCC recognised the challenges faced by LCCC since 2021, but that significant improvement had been made over the past year.

Councillor Holden asked if leaders in cricket appreciated the problems that may arise from short notice crickets matches. The Head of Safety and Security – LCCC responded in fairness to the powers that be, with several moving pieces at play. However, LCCC had learnt from the issues that arose and will implement this moving forward.

Councillor Thomas appreciated of the willingness of LCCC and the Council to work together to ensure that spectators and employees were safe.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

15. REPORT ON THE SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS FOR LANCASHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB 2020-2023

The Environmental Health Officer provided an overview of the report which was circulated with the agenda. This report highlighted challenges experienced over Covid and the reintroduction of concerts at the cricket ground in 2022 and 2023. Despite untrained staff found in safety critical positions on the first day of the Ashes, there were enough staff in the ground with the correct qualifications and this had been rearranged by the afternoon.

Councillor Baskerville asked about the issues faced on the first day of the Ashes. The Sub-Committee was reassured that registration forms and wristbands had now been implemented to ensure that staff would not be in incorrect areas of the ground.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

16. ANNUAL SAFETY REPORT FOR MANCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022-23

The Deputy Head of Safety and Security – Manchester United Football Club (MUFC) introduced the report on the Annual Safety Report for MUFC across the 2022-23 season.

The Sub-Committee were alerted some of the challenges faced by MUFC. Due to MUFC men's team going far in all competitions and every cup draw being at home, 43 games were held at the ground. The season had also been congested by the mid-season World Cup, and saw the club go through full implementation of

Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee (22.1.24)

digital tickets and cashless services within the ground. The level of licensed safe standing within the stadium also increased prior to the season.

Challenges had also been faced with increased protest sentiment witnessed toward the club ownership. This had resulted in increased issues of disorder and pyrotechnics, but any problems had been managed well through close working with partners. MUFC had also reviewed its medical plan, and this had improved further post-season.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

17. REPORT ON THE SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS FOR MANCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB 2020-2023

The Team Leader (Environmental Health and Safety at Sports Grounds) introduced the report. The Sub-Committee were advised that safety advisory group for Manchester United Football Club (MUFC) met three times a year and involved colleagues across Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Services (GMFRS), and the North-West Ambulance Services (NWAS).

Further, the Community safety team had done work across the year on matchday urination on the streets in the local area, and work had been done with MUFC to deal with the nuisance caused by this.

Audits had also taken place on the physical factors of safety at the football club.

Councillor Thomas recalled radio issues for the NWAS in 2021 and enquired as to whether this issue had been resolved. The Deputy Head of Safety and Security at MUFC responded that this was dealt with at the time, working alongside NWAS and Motorola to make the sufficient improvements since. The Resilience Manager at NWAS added that an additional hardware base had been introduced.

Councillor Thomas added his appreciation for additional toilet facilities being implemented around the ground and added that this street urination ward Councillors had received complaints on. The Director of Operation at MUFC also referred to the alley gates which had been introduced in alleyways behind local houses. This had seen a cessation of these issues. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services added that joint working had and was still take place between the Club and the Council to make improvements.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.35 pm