

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS - CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS - FIR PARK STADIUM, MOTHERWELL
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 28 May 2013	Ref: LD/EH	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council has previously adopted practices in relation to its responsibilities for certification of "Designated Sports Grounds" in North Lanarkshire and agreed to the establishment of a Safety of Sports Grounds Officer Working Group representing a variety of disciplines which assist the process of certification.
- 1.2. The Council has also agreed that a programme of annual inspections be established and over the past few months, Officers of the Working Group have carried out a series of inspections at Fir Park Stadium, Motherwell, and met with representatives from the Stadium Management to discuss a number of issues relating to the General Safety Certificate for the ground.

2. Current Position


As a result of these inspections, the undernoted matters have been identified as requiring attention, details of which have been passed to the Stadium Manager for attention.

- 2.1. An Annual Periodic Electrical Inspection Report shall be submitted.
- 2.2. A Certification or Risk Assessment of barriers, claddings and structural elements shall be submitted.
- 2.3. A Certificate of Risk Assessment of the stadium's adequacy shall be submitted.
- 2.4. The fire capping to the stairs in the David Cooper Stand shall be completed.
- 2.5. Fire protection works to the Main Stand shall be completed – this work may require a further building warrant extension as the current warrant (BW09/01402/SALT) expires on 30 July 2013.
- 2.6. The installation of infill panels to barriers shall be completed.
- 2.7. All intumescent strips to doors which have been painted over shall be replaced.
- 2.8. All gaps around fire doors shall be closed using smoke control brushes.
- 2.9. In respect of the bars across the exits in the South Stand, written confirmation is required that the exit doors to the South Stand concourse will be available for unrestricted use at all times when the stand is in use, and that an exit will be available at each end of the concourse whenever the concourse/stand is opened.

- 2.10. With regard to the structural integrity of the stadium, a list of matters has been identified which require comment either individually, or, as part of the annual certification arrangements, as detailed in the Appendix to this report.
- 2.11. In respect of the large door accessing the tunnel area from the main access stairs in the Phil O'Donnell Stand, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have recommended: (a) that third party certification of the suitability of the door for use at that location shall be submitted; (b) that evidence be provided that the door has been installed by a competent person to the manufacturer's specification, and (c) that the threshold in the area concerned be raised to reduce the excessive gap at the bottom of the door.
- 2.12. The lock on the final exit door from the main entrance of the David Cooper Stand shall be adjusted to comply with BS7273 – Part 4 – 2007, (ie the Code of Practice that refers to the operation of fire protection measures – activation of release mechanisms for doors).
- 2.13. The roller shutters on the fire exit routes shall be adjusted to provided a mechanism to ensure that the shutters can be locked in the open position when part of the stadium serviced by the exit route is occupied.
- 2.14. The stadium fire exit signage does not comply with BS5499 – Part 4 – 2000 and shall be replaced with signage to comply with the Standard.

3. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee hear verbal updates on any outstanding issues by the appropriate Officers and from the Stadium Management of Fir Park Stadium and consider the renewal of the General Safety Certificate accordingly.


Head of Central Services

APPENDIX

ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT 2013

ANNUAL INSPECTION

Representatives of management should arrange a detailed annual inspection of all structures, components and installations and provide appropriate certification in support of the same, in accordance with Clause 5.13 of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds.

The Annual Inspection should be carried out by an appropriately skilled and experienced Chartered Engineer and it should clearly state which part(s) of the stadium are fit for purpose and which part(s) of the stadium are not fit for purpose.

STRUCTURAL APPRAISAL

Representatives of management should arrange a structural appraisal of all existing structures and provide appropriate certification in support of the same in accordance with Clause 5.14 of the current Guide.

The appraisal methods described by the Institution of Structural Engineers in the publication Appraisal of Existing Structures are recommended. The appraisal should be carried out by a competent Chartered Engineer who has the appropriate skills and experience.

The requirement for a Structural Appraisal was introduced in the 2008 (5th Edition) of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. The Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) advises that an interval between appraisals of 6-10 years is likely to be appropriate for most large structures at sports grounds. If the Chartered Engineer considers that a Structural Appraisal is not appropriate at this time the reason(s) why should be clearly stated.

WEST STAND (MAIN STAND)

Steelwork Forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of flaking paint and corrosion. It is recommended that appropriate remedial action be taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

Metal Stairs 1 to 4 Adjacent to Pitch Side

Corrosion to underside of stairs and landings. It is recommended that appropriate remedial action be taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

NORTH STAND

Steelwork Forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of flaking paint and corrosion. It is recommended that appropriate remedial action be taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

EAST STAND

Steelwork Forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of flaking paint and corrosion. It is recommended that appropriate remedial action be taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

SOUTH STAND

Steelwork Forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of flaking paint and corrosion. It is recommended that appropriate remedial action be taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

Brickwork Boundary Wall at Rear of Stand

Although there is no obvious significant deterioration since 2012, copes are loose local to entrance (S2). It is recommended that the loose copes are reset and that ground owners continue to regularly monitor/check the wall for movement.

FLOOD LIGHTS

South West, North West and North East Floodlights

Areas of flaking paint and corrosion. It is recommended that appropriate remedial action be taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.