

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS - CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS - FIR PARK STADIUM, MOTHERWELL
From: HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES		
Date: 04 July 2014	Ref: LD/EH	

1. Introduction

The Council has previously adopted practices in relation to its responsibilities for the 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.

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:

- 2.1. The submission of an Annual Structural Inspection Report;
- 2.2. The submission of an Annual Risk Assessment (Crash Barriers and Handrails);
- 2.3. The submission of Annual Periodic Inspection and Test Certificates (Electrical);
- 2.4. With regard to the structural integrity of the stadium, a list of matters has been identified which requires comment either individually, or, as part of the annual certification arrangements, details of which are set out in the Appendix to this report;
- 2.5. Although works to improve fire compartmentation have commenced, there remains inadequate compartmentation and fire protection in the Phil O'Donnell Stand, and there are bare timbers throughout the seating deck. In that connection, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has recommended that these works be completed as soon as practicable to provide fire protection and compartmentation in this structure. The materials and standard of workmanship used to achieve the required passive fire resistance should be third party certified.

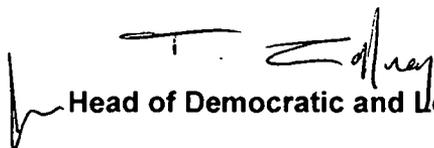
Once the suitability of the requisite materials has been confirmed, written notification of the timescale for the completion of the works should be submitted to the Council for consideration, and

2.6. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has also recommended:-

- (a) that fire doors and final exit doors have third party certification of their suitability for use in the location where they are installed; that these should have been installed by a competent person to the manufacturers' specifications, and the current programme of maintenance should ensure continual compliance;
- (b) that all stadium fire exit signage should comply with British Standard BS 5499 (Part 4) 2000 – the Code of Practice for escape route signing;
- (c) that the current programme for the implementation of a consistent maintenance regime for fire fighting equipment should ensure continued compliance, and
- (d) that a survey of the current fire alarm system be carried out and any relevant findings actioned to ensure that the system complies with the requirements of BS 5839 (Part 1) 2013, the Code of Practice for design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of systems in non-domestic premises.

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 Democratic and Legal Service

North Lanarkshire Council Safety at Sports Grounds

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Sheet No. 1 - List of Structural Observations

Annual Inspection:

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 current Guide.

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:

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.**

Barriers and Risk Assessment:

Management should arrange a Barriers Risk Assessment and provide appropriate certification in support of the same in accordance with clause 11.18 of the current Guide.

The Risk Assessment (which in practice, will be carried out in a similar fashion to an Annual Inspection) should be conducted and recorded by a Chartered Engineer, Architect or Surveyor who has the appropriate skill and experience.

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Sheet No. 2 - List of Structural Observations

West Stand (Main Stand):

Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion. The Annual Inspection should comment on this. Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

Metal Stairs 1 to 4 adjacent to Pitch Side

Corrosion to underside of stairs and landings. The Annual Inspection should comment on this. Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

North Stand:

Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion. The Annual Inspection should comment on this. Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

East Stand:

Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion. The Annual Inspection should comment on this. Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

South Stand:

Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame

Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion. The Annual Inspection should comment on this. Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

Brickwork Boundary Wall at rear of stand off plumb.

No obvious significant deterioration since 2013.

Open Underpend area.

Vertical cracks through brickwork at head of third column from East Gable. Similar cracks present at West Gable support wall. The cracks do not appear to be structural but the Annual Inspection Report may wish to comment on this matter

Flood lights:

South West, North West and North East Floodlights

Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion. The Annual Inspection should comment on this. Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime

Gymnasium:

Short section of missing fire protection board (and possibly intumescent paint) at east end of gymnasium local to cage protected downpipe. Operator should check adequacy of Fire Protection at this location and take appropriate action if necessary.