

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Licensing Committee

### Meeting held 27 September 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Barker (Chair), Adam Hurst, Douglas Johnson, Mike Levery, Josie Paszek, Vickie Priestley and Mick Rooney

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#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Bainbridge, Lisa Banes, Dawn Dale and Cliff Woodcraft.

#### **2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT (AS AMENDED) AND FOOTBALL SPECTATORS ACT 1989 - STADIUM GENERAL SAFETY CERTIFICATES AND SPECTATOR LICENCES**

##### **4.1 Designated Stadium General Safety Certificates**

4.1.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report to confirm the decision taken by him, under delegated authority, to grant a General Safety Certificate in respect of (a) Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and (b) Bramall Lane Stadium, Sheffield United Football Club (Ref 91/18).

4.1.2 Matt Proctor (Sports Grounds and Events Lead Officer) presented the report to the Committee, giving background information and detailed the annual inspection process. He stated that the certificate in respect of Bramall Lane had been issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018 and in respect of Hillsborough on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, and copies of both Certificates were available at the meeting for inspection and were also available online. Also, in accordance with the legislation, the new General Safety Certificates were required to be advertised, and a copy of such advertisement was attached to the report at Appendix "A".

4.1.3 In response to questions from Members of the Committee, Matt Proctor stated that the reduced capacity at Hillsborough Stadium remained in place due to physical characteristics relating to access and egress to the Stadium. Matt Proctor further stated that, as the Certifying Authority, should any major incidents occur, the Council may be liable to prosecution. Steve Lonnia added that the Safety of Sports Ground by its very nature was the most technical certificate and that Sheffield could be guilty of being over-cautious, but the Licensing Service

does take the safety of sports grounds seriously and carry out safety checks thoroughly. Steve Lonnia said that he would keep the Committee up to date with any issues that arise, however minor.

4.1.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the decisions of the Chief Licensing Officer (Head of Licensing) to grant an amended and revised General Safety Certificate in respect of the Hillsborough Stadium, Penistone Road, Sheffield S6 1SW and Bramall Lane Stadium, Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4SU (Ref No.91/18).

4.2 Sports Ground Safety Authority – Spectator Licences 2018/19

4.2.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report to inform Members that the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA) had granted licences to permit spectators to watch designated football matches at the following stadiums during the season 2018-19 – Sheffield Wednesday Hillsborough Stadium and Sheffield United Bramall Lane Stadium (Ref 92/18).

4.2.2 Matt Proctor (Sports Grounds and Events Lead Officer) presented the report to the Committee, stating that the respective SGSA Licences and Conditions were attached at Appendix “A” to the report.

4.2.3 In response to questions from Members of the Committee, Matt Proctor stated that both Sheffield clubs adopt a persuasive approach to encourage fans to sit down and that 97-98% of fans do sit down. He added that if the problem persisted in a particular area of a stadium, that part of the stadium could be closed down until there was a suitable resolution to the problem. He further added that it was away supporters who tended to stand up at football games and that the cost of safe standing at the grounds might prove to be excessive.

4.2.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the contents of the report now submitted (Ref.92/18).