



Stadium Liaison Groups

A Stadium liaison group should be established to:

Aims

- Create a mechanism for regular and constructive dialogue between the sports club and its neighbouring communities

Objectives

- Effectively address issues arising from the activities of the sports club by allowing local people access to relevant officials from the sports club, local authority and emergency services
- Seek the active involvement and support of all sections of the local community in order to build a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between the sports club and its neighbours
- Explore mutually beneficial opportunities
- Encourage liaison between all community groups within the stadium neighbourhood
- Explore opportunities to maximise the usage of the stadium in terms of community benefits
- Allow the sports club and local authority to draw upon valuable local community knowledge when developing stadium management, concert and green travel plans

Structure:

- The liaison meetings should be held at the sports club on either a monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly frequency as appropriate
- The Liaison Group should ideally have a signed constitution or an agreed 'Terms of Reference'
- Ideally the meeting will be chaired by a representative of the local community
- All community representatives should be democratically elected by the communities, which they serve to represent, with appropriate mechanisms in place to allow them to 'feedback' information to the communities they represent
- Minutes should be taken, preferably by an independent minute taker, and distributed to all members of the group along with an agenda for next meeting
- The costs incurred by the liaison group in terms of photocopying, posting of minutes etc, should not be the responsibility of the local community. Costs can be covered by a variety of sources including; the sports club; local authority, through community development departments; or through small government grants such as 'Community Chest' or 'Awards for All'.

Representation and Composition:

The Stadium liaison group is a mechanism for two-way communication between the sports club and its neighbouring communities, however it is also a way for the club and local people to gain access the key decision makers within an area. So as to maximise the effectiveness of the group representatives should be considered from the following:

- Sports Club including:
 - Senior staff Member / Stadium Manager etc
 - Safety Officer
 - Community department
- Community Representatives
- Local businesses
- Police & Emergency Services
- City Council including (where appropriate)
 - Traffic and Highways department
 - Regeneration and development
 - Social Inclusion and Community development
- Ward Councillors
- Fan Groups / Supporters Trust
- Stadium Tenants
- Federation of Stadium Communities
- Other interested parties where appropriate / local voluntary sector groups, schools, colleges, PCTs etc

Types of Sub-Groups:

The Stadium liaison group will serve as a general discussion and liaison mechanism, however when dealing with specific projects and initiatives it may be necessary to establish themed sub-groups which will focus on specific issues and may require specialised attendees not normally present at the main group. Examples of sub-groups are:

- Green Travel Plan working Group
- Concert Working Group
- Community Events Working Group
- Community Space Working Group
- Anti-racism Initiatives Working Group

For more information contact:

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