

**LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**8 APRIL 1999**

Present: Councillors North (Chairman), Bettison, Blatchford, Egan, Fawcett, Flood, Good, Grayson, Miss Haydon, Jones, Mrs Keene, Mrs Pile, Thompson, Wade and Wheaton

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Councillors Finnie and Mrs Hayes

**567. Substitute Members**

The Committee noted the attendance of the following substitute members under Standing Order 38:

Councillor Jones for Councillor McCormack  
Councillor Mrs Pile for Councillor Mrs Hayes  
Councillor Wade for Councillor Finnie

**568. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 January 1999 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**569. Joint Golf Course Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Golf Course Committee held on 19 November 1998 be received.

**570. Edgbarrow and Sandhurst Sports Centre Management Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Edgbarrow and Sandhurst Sports Centre Management Committee held on 22 February 1999 be received.

**571. Quarterly Summary Report (Item 1)**

The Committee considered the Quarterly Summary Report which detailed current issues and developments and work undertaken by individual sections within the Department since the Committee's last meeting in January. The Report also included revenue budgetary control information up to and including January 1999 and progress in relation to the schemes in the approved capital programme.

**RESOLVED** that the Quarterly Summary Report, detailing work undertaken by Leisure Services since the last meeting of the Committee, be received.

**572. Service Plan 1999/2000 (Item 2)**

The Committee considered its Service Plan, which would form an important part of the Council's financial and policy planning process for the coming year. The Service Plan set out the Committee's objectives and would help to guide and monitor activities. The overall policy objective for the Committee would be to maximise the contribution made by Leisure Services to the social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being of the Borough. Individual objectives were grouped under the headings of Health and Well-Being; Community Safety; Protecting and Enhancing the Environment; Economic Development; and Improving Service Standards.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Leisure Services Committee's Service Plan, as outlined in Annexe A to the report, be approved; and
- (ii) the Policy Objectives (as amended at the meeting) within the Service Plan be submitted to the Strategy and Policy Committee for inclusion in the Council's Overall Service Plan for 1999/2000.

**573. Revenue Budget 1999/2000 (Item 3)**

Following the approval by the Council on 3 March of its budget, the Committee considered a report which detailed the Leisure Services revenue estimates for 1999/2000.

**RESOLVED** that the Leisure Services Committee's detailed budget, as outlined in Annexe B to the report, be noted.

**574. Capital Programme 1999/2000 – 2001/2002 (Item 4)**

The Committee considered a report in which it was advised of the progress with the 1998/99 Capital Programme and noted the resources of £3.662 million would be carried forward into 1999/2000. The grant award to South Hill Park and the purchase of Downshire Golf Course accounted for the most of this sum. The report also set out 'unavoidable' schemes, including £400,000 for the replacement library management system. In terms of 'new' schemes, a wheeled sports facility Longhill Park, a design and feasibility study on improvements to the Sandhurst School site; and general improvements to leisure facilities were proposed. There were also proposals for two self-financing schemes relating to the new sports hall at Bracknell Sport and Leisure Centre and the installation of a combined heat and power unit at Coral Reef.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the projected carry forward of resources from the 1998/99 programme, as outlined in Annex A to the report, be noted; and
- (ii) the schemes, summarised in Annexe D of the report, be submitted to the Strategy and Policy Committee for inclusion within the Capital Programme for 1999/2000.

**575. Longhill Wheeled Sports Park (Item 5)**

The Committee considered a report which sought authority, subject to a capital allocation of £70,000 from the Strategy and Policy Committee, to proceed with the construction of a wheeled sports facility at Longhill Park.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) subject to any subsequent allocation from the Strategy and Policy Committee, up to £70,000 from the 1999/2000 Capital Programme for provision of a wheeled sports facility at Longhill Park be approved;
- (ii) subject to the approval in (i) above, the surfacing and fencing works be implemented through the Council's term contractor; and
- (iii) an order be placed with a specialist skatepark equipment supplier under the terms of Standing Order 67 (1).

**576. Additional Capital Works: North Ascot Youth Centre (Item 6)**

The Director of Leisure Services reported on a capital expenditure proposal (subject to an allocation of resources from the Strategy and Policy Committee) to provide disabled access, heating in the games hall, a new office and the conversion of existing office to create a coffee bar at the North Ascot Youth Centre. The Committee noted that the proposed development would increase usage of the building and would therefore generate additional income.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) subject to any subsequent capital allocation from the Strategy and Policy Committee, £37,000 be allocated from the 1999/2000 Capital Programme to fund the proposed building extension and improvements at North Ascot youth Centre; and
- (ii) the project be implemented, as detailed in the report.

**577. Community Sports/Greenway - Sandhurst School Site (Item 7)**

The Director of Leisure Services submitted a report on the proposed Greenway Project which had been considered and developed by the Sandhurst School site Focus Group. The scheme would provide a variety of improvements to the Sandhurst School/Sports Centre site. These included the relocation of the multi-purpose sports area; improvements to the school playing field; and a new entrance for Sandhurst Sports Centre; and the creation of a tarmac footway and cycleway between Branksome Hill Road and Owlsmoor Road. The Committee agreed that design work and a feasibility study should be undertaken.

The Committee considered opportunities for funding for the project overall, which was estimated to cost £530,000 in total, and one of these included the development of the south west corner of the site with a small number of houses. An application for grant aid from the National Lottery would also be made. In view of the impact of the proposals on the locality, a public consultation exercise would be undertaken.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Greenway Project be supported in principle and the Leisure Services Committee take the lead role in its development;
- (ii) a public consultation leaflet be produced and site plans be displayed locally;
- (iii) an outline planning application be submitted for a small number of houses in the south west corner of the Sandhurst School/Sports Centre site;
- (iv) the existing agreement between Sandhurst School and Sandhurst Sports Centre be updated to reflect the changes arising from unitary status;
- (v) subject to any subsequent allocation from the Strategy and Policy Committee, expenditure of up to £30,000 from the 1999/2000 Capital Programme be approved before undertaking further investigations and design work; and
- (vi) applications be submitted to the National Lottery for funding.

**578. Easthampstead Park Conference/Education Centre: Fire Detection/Alarm System (Item 8)**

The Director of Leisure Services reported on the need to replace the existing fire detection/alarm system at the Easthampstead Park Conference/Education Centre, which could not be modified to an acceptable standard. The Committee noted that for a relatively small additional outlay, a system could be installed that would meet the higher 'L1' standard, with capital funding of £100,000 required for the scheme overall.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the approval of the Leisure Services Capital Programme by the Strategy and Policy Committee, the Director of Leisure Services be authorised to progress the scheme relating to the fire detection/alarm system at the Easthampstead Park Conference/Education Centre.

**579. Replacement Library Management System (Item 9)**

The Director of Leisure Services reported on progress with the replacement library management system. The tendering exercise was underway and it was envisaged that the contract would be awarded by the end of April, with the system implemented between May and October. The Committee was advised that the scheme was dependent upon the release of capital expenditure of £400,000 by the Strategy and Policy Committee.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Director of Leisure Services be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to select the approved supplier of the library management system; and
- (ii) subject to any subsequent decisions by the Strategy and Policy Committee regarding the 1999/2000 Capital Programme, up to £400,000 be released from the Capital Programme to purchase a replacement library management system.

**580. Quelm Lane Footpath–Cycleway (Item 10)**

The Director of Leisure Services reported on proposals for the construction of a crushed stone footpath-cycleway to the north of Quelm Lane in Warfield. The Committee agreed that the scheme would proceed and noted that funding of £30,200 had been set aside from contributions made by developers under a Section 106 planning agreement and the Committee agreed to request the Strategy and Policy Committee to release this funding.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the construction of a shared footpath–cycleway to the north of Quelm Lane, Warfield, as set out in the report, be approved and the Strategy and Policy Committee be requested to release Section 106 planning agreement funding of £30,200; and
- (ii) work be carried out by the Council's term contractor, S R Newman & Company.

**581. Library Stock Supply Tender (Item 11)**

The Committee was advised that stock for the Borough's libraries was purchased under several agreements inherited from Berkshire County Council. The Committee agreed to formalise the arrangements and to seek tenders for contracts as soon as possible from the beginning of the 1999/2000 financial year, with the contracts operating for a period of three years. Existing suppliers would be retained until new contracts were in place.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Library Service be given approval to utilise the existing suppliers until the new contracts were in place;
- (ii) the Director of Leisure Services be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman, to agree the list of tenderers for the supply of library stock;
- (iii) the Director of Leisure Services be authorised, in conjunction with the Chairman, to accept the most economically advantageous tender for each contract; and
- (iv) approval for organisation and ordering of the supply of periodicals to be managed by the library staff within the Leisure Services Department.

**582. Ascot Jubilee Recreation Ground Pavilion, Goaters Road, North Ascot (Item 12)**

In a report by the Director of Leisure Services, the Committee was advised that Winkfield Parish Council had requested a grant for improvements to the Ascot Jubilee Recreation Ground Pavilion. The improvements mainly related to heating and ventilation, internal and external lighting and the creation of extra storage space for sports and other equipment. The scheme was estimated to cost £45,000 and the Parish Council had asked for a grant of £15,000, funding for which could be made available under Section 106 planning agreement monies allocated for North Bracknell community facilities.

**RESOLVED** that the Strategy and Policy Committee be requested to release £15,000 of Section 106 planning agreement funds towards a grant to Winkfield Parish Council for improvements to the Pavilion at Ascot Jubilee recreation Ground.

**583. Special Protection Area (Item 13)**

The Committee was advised that part of the Borough would be designated as a proposed Special Protection Area under European Union legislation as the land in question supported three internationally important species of birds. However, the northern part of Swinley Forest and Crowthorne Woods had not been included within the Special Protection Area boundary, owing to a mis-match of European and national designations.

A study of the implications of the designation found that there were several threats to the proposed Special Protection Area including disturbance from recreational use and destruction of habitats by fire. In response to these the study set out a range of 20 recommendations covering the management, education and monitoring. The Committee agreed to endorse these recommendations subject to the Planning and Transportation Committee giving its views on the planning aspects of the designation.

**RESOLVED** that subject to deliberations of the Planning and Transportation Committee

- (i) the findings of the Study "Special Protection Area: The Implications for Bracknell Forest", and the recommendations of the Study as set out in paragraph 4.9 of the report be endorsed; and
- (ii) the Council continue to work in partnership with other landowners to help protect this internationally important wildlife area.

**584. Car Park Charging at The Look Out Discovery Park (Item 14)**

The Director of Leisure Services reported on outline proposals for the introduction of a car park charging system at The Look Out and Coral Reef Car Parks. The Committee noted that, based on available information, a large number of users of The Look Out were from outside the Borough and thus it could be argued that Borough residents were subsidising those from outside the Borough through the Council Tax. If any parking charges were to be introduced, the Committee's opinion was that Borough residents should be able to park free of charge, with charges levied on non-Borough residents. The Committee identified several related issues such as the need for parking restrictions on the appropriate section of Nine Mile Ride and possible public transport provision.

**RESOLVED** that a feasibility study and business plan be undertaken on the introduction of a car park charging system at the Look Out and Coral Reef car parks, based on the assumption that non-Borough residents would be charged in the region of £2 per visit and with no charge for Borough residents.

**585. Roads Used as Public Paths (Item 15)**

The Committee considered a report on progress with the re-classification of "Roads Used as Public Paths" - a public right of way function inherited from Berkshire County Council. The Committee was advised that under the Wildlife and Countryside Act

1981 roads used as public paths had to be classified as either "byway", "bridleway" or "footpath". Most of the roads used as public paths in the Borough lay within the parishes of Binfield and Warfield.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**586. Youth Service Audit (Item 16)**

The Committee noted a specification for the audit of the youth service, the results of which would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in June. The Committee also noted an analysis of youth service provision nationally, which found the varied standards in provision across the country. Characteristics of better performing local authorities had been identified as a service identity centred on young people and partnerships with them; integration of in depth work with groups of young people; and the capacity for young people to contribute to strategies across a variety of departments and agencies.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the specification for the Bracknell Forest Youth Service audit be noted;
- (ii) the main findings of the 1998 audit of England's youth service with particular reference to the characteristics of higher performing authorities be noted; and
- (iii) reports relating to the outcome of the audit and establishing a framework to develop a youth service strategy be submitted to the Committee in June 1999.

**587. Department of Culture, Media and Sport: A New Cultural Framework (Item 17)**

The Committee considered a report setting out the results of a consultation undertaken by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as part of the Government's comprehensive spending review. The Paper "The New Cultural Framework" confirmed the government's view that cultural, sporting and creative activities had a fundamental impact on the quality of life for all citizens.

**RESOLVED** that the proposals contained in "The New Cultural Framework" be welcomed and the implications for the Council's partners be noted.

**588. Information items**

The Committee noted the following item submitted for information only:

South Hill Park	(Item 18)
Arts Audit	(Item 19)

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.55pm.

**CHAIRMAN**