

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
13 JANUARY 1998

Present: Councillor North (Chairman), Councillors Bettison, Blatchford, Egan, Fawcett, Finnie, Good, Grayson, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Keene, McCormack, Taylor, Thompson and Wheaton

Also Present: Councillor Angell

Apologies for Absence were received from:
Councillor Flood

431. Chairman's Announcement

(i) Head of Libraries, Arts and Information

The Chairman introduced Ruth Burgess as the new Head of Libraries, Arts and Information and welcomed her to the meeting.

(ii) Play Area Directory

Councillor North introduced the draft Play Areas Directory which had recently been produced and which detailed all the facilities within the Borough.

432. Minutes of Sub and Liaison Committees

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Edgbarrow and Sandhurst Sports Centre Management Committee held on 3 November 1997 and of the Joint Golf Course Committee held on 2 July 1997 be received.

433. Petition

Mark Frost attended the meeting to present a petition regarding the request for the provision of a skate park in either Winkfield or Warfield area, he also asked that a basketball ring be provided. It was noted that this issue would be considered under Item 4 of the agenda.

434. Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16 September 1997 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

435. Sandhurst District Guides Hall - Grant Request (Item 1)

The Sandhurst Ranger Guides attended the meeting to give a presentation on the request for a grant towards the provision of a new headquarters building for the Sandhurst Guides by the extension and alteration of the existing Sandhurst Town Boys and Girls changing rooms. Details were given on the history of the Ranger Guides and the current number of Guiding, Brownie and Rainbow units within the area. It was noted that various different school halls and church halls were currently used as facilities for these units but that many problems were experienced with these including the problem of limited storage space. Planning permission had been given for the construction of a new Guide hall at the Memorial Park in Sandhurst. The facilities would include a kitchen, a large storage area and room facilities for the Clubs. However, it was now proposed to extend and alter the existing Sandhurst Town Girls and Boys changing facilities, and these proposals would require further planning permission.

In accordance with Standing Order 23, Councillor Bettison declared a non pecuniary interest in this item. He remained in the Council Chamber but did not speak or vote thereon.

The Committee considered the grant request made by Sandhurst District Guides for £45,000 towards the provision of a Guides Headquarters at the Memorial Park, Sandhurst.

RESOLVED that the Council supports the grant application made by the Sandhurst Ranger Guides in principle, subject to the Borough Council having funds available, but defers a decision on the amount of grant allocated and the conditions attached to the grant until further information is available.

436. **Dog Fouling (Item 10)**

The Committee considered a report regarding the proposal to address the issue of dog fouling on public open spaces throughout the Borough, through the introduction of a 'traffic light system' and the proposed appointment of a Dog Warden. A similar report had been taken to Public and Environmental Services Committee on 8 January 1998.

RESOLVED that subject to confirmation of funding;

- (i) the Council work in partnership with the Parish/Town Councils on introducing a "Traffic Light System" for all open spaces within the Borough;
- (ii) all open spaces managed by the Leisure Services Department be zoned in accordance with the guidance given below;
- (iii) regular reports be submitted to the Countryside Management Steering Group on progress with the scheme; and
- (iv) a contribution of £5,000 be made towards the appointment of a Dog Warden,

437. **Revenue Budget 1998/99 (Item 2)**

The Acting Borough Leisure Officer introduced a report giving details of the proposed Revenue Budget for 1998/99, which had been prepared within the framework set by the Strategy and Policy Committee on 17 December 1997. It was noted that the Committee

would be considering their revenue budgets during January and will be making recommendations to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 4 February 1998. The Strategy and Policy Committee would then draw together the Service Committee's proposals and recommend an overall budget to the Council meeting on 26 February. Consideration was given to the variations from the disaggregated 1997/98 budget, budgets needing inflation added 1998/99, proposed service developments and service economies. The Chairman and Assistant Borough Leisure Officer answered questions thereon.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Committee agrees its draft base budget for 1998/99 as shown in paragraph 4.4.3, of the report submitted; and
- (ii) the Committee requests that Strategy and Policy Committee in considering the Council's budget for 1998/99:
 - (a) add an allowance for inflation to the running expenses budget identified in Annexe B of the report submitted; and
 - (b) consider the potential service developments/pressures and economies identified in Annexes C and D respectively of the report submitted.

438. **Service Plan (Item 3)**

The Acting Borough Leisure Officer submitted a report giving details of the Service Plans for the Leisure Services area for 1998/99. The Service Plan summarised all the areas of service for which the Leisure Services Committee is responsible, emphasising all objectives, key tasks and targets which were to be treated as provisional at this stage. For operational purposes the service delivery had been split into four main sections namely Recreation and Amenities, Parks Countryside and Heritage, Libraries, Arts and Information and the area of Youth and Community. The Chairman gave an update of work currently being undertaken on areas which have been suggested by Members of the Committee as possible key development areas. It was suggested that one of these areas should be the investigation of the possibility of the provision of a play area and crèche within the town centre. It was agreed that this issue should be referred to the Town Centre Sub Committee.

RESOLVED that the Leisure Services Committee adopt the Service Plan as a basis for detailed service planning.

439. **Weather Watch (Item 18)**

The Committee considered a report giving details of the recent decision by the Millennium Commission not to grant an extension of the time allotted to the progression of the Weather Watch scheme. It was considered that without this extension of time, it would not be possible to complete the scheme.

RESOLVED that the Millennium Commission be informed that this Council is unable to progress the Weather Watch scheme, in view of their refusal to grant an extension of time.

440. **Wheeled Sports - Research (Item 4)**

The Council had received two petitions, one which had been presented to the Council on 23 October 1997 regarding requests for locations for wheeled sports facilities within the Borough. Mark Frost had attended the meeting to present the second petition to the Committee. The Committee considered the need to undertake research into developing the provision for non-motorised wheeled sports within the Borough.

RESOLVED that research be undertaken into the potential for developing non-motorised wheeled sports for young people.

441. Ramp for Wheeled Sports - Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre (Item 5)

The Committee considered a report relating to the proposal to install a new ramp for wheeled sports at the Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre. The new ramp would accommodate beginners, currently not catered for at the site, and it was proposed to site the new ramp alongside the existing one. The cost of this scheme would be £14,000.

RESOLVED that

- (i) £14,000 capital expenditure be approved;
- (ii) in accordance with Standing Order 62(I), the requirements of Standing Order 60 be waived, due to the specialist nature of the goods required; and
- (iii) the quotation from Freestyle for the ramp for £11,950 + VAT be accepted.

442. Capital Grants (Item 6)

The Committee received a report giving an update on the position with regard to the progress relating to various requests for capital grants. It was noted that the proposals for the Sandhurst Boys Football Club had changed significantly as a result of consultation with the Planning Section who are keen to reduce the number of ad hoc buildings on the site.

RESOLVED that

the Committee:

- (i) notes the general contents of the report, and that some of the details of the schemes which are based at Sandhurst Memorial Park have changed (or may be changed) as a result of rationalising the location of the buildings in this green space; and
- (ii) authorises the Officers in consultation with the Vice Chairman, to agree variations arising as a result of these changes.

443. Use of Community Centres and Village Halls (Item 7)

The Committee considered a report giving details of a research project undertaken on the type and level of use of community centres and village halls within the Borough. The aim of the project had been to provide information to guide future policy on the planning and management of these halls. The Acting Assistant Borough Leisure Officer tabled a map giving details of all the centres studied as part of the project. It was considered that the results of the project would be extremely useful in utilising halls to their maximum efficiency.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) as the results indicate that the current demand for halls can be met with those already in existence or planned/being built, if they are all maintained at a sufficiently high standard and accessible for wider community use; it is suggested that financial support should not be given to the building of new halls unless there is a clearly established need, which cannot be accommodated in neighbouring facilities.

444. Priestwood Community Centre (Item 8)

In accordance with Standing Order 23, Councillor Fawcett declared a non pecuniary interest in this item and left the Council Chamber.

The Committee considered the report regarding proposed improvements to the Priestwood Community Centre and to the environment in the vicinity of the building.

RESOLVED that up to £19,663 of Section 106 money be spent on improvements to Priestwood Community Centre subject to the Management Committee of the Association providing a satisfactory business plan.

445. Summer Holiday Fun Programme (Item 9)

The Acting Borough Leisure Officer presented a report seeking agreement for proposals for a programme of activities to be organised by Leisure Services Department in the summer holiday of 1998. It was suggested that the service provided in 1997 be repeated but with minor improvements and modification based on the experience gained. The service would aim to cater for young people and it was hoped to increase a number of referrals from Social Services/Community Safety Manager and to ensure the participation of the Youth Services.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Leisure Services Department organises a programme of summer holiday activities in 1998 on a similar basis to that which was organised in the previous year;
- (ii) liaison continues to take place with Social Services and the Community Safety Officer who will refer those children, deemed to be at risk of offending behaviour, onto courses; these courses to be offered free to these referrals with the charges reimbursed to the provider from the playscheme budget;
- (iii) a "Summer Fun Guide" be produced with details of events and activities organised by both the Borough Council and other agencies; and
- (iv) the Leisure Services Department produce a play policy for the Borough Council.

446. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (Item 11)

The Committee considered a report regarding the proposal to continue funding the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It was noted that the Countryside Service worked closely with BTCV as well as other conservation groups affiliated to BTCV to provide advice and support to schools within the Borough as well as the delivery of other Countryside Services.

RESOLVED that subject to Section 137 monies being available an annual grant of £1,500 be awarded to BTCV for a further three year period towards core funding of the organisation.

447. **Fishing Permits - Review of Charges (Item 12)**

The Acting Assistant Borough Leisure Officer presented a report giving details of proposed fishing charges for the 1998/99 fishing season. The Committee considered the issue of charges at Farleymoor Lake and the need to address the issue in light of advice regarding the swans nesting on the lake and it was agreed that a report on this issue be submitted to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the increase in charges as shown in the report and abandonment of the part-season ticket from October be approved.

448. **Outdoor Basketball Initiative (OBI) (Item 13)**

The Committee considered a report giving details of the work undertaken to investigate proposed sites for basketball posts throughout the Borough as recommended by the Leisure Services Committee held in September 1997. Both school sites and other recreational sites were investigated and two proposals put forward to the OBI.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Committee notes the current situation regarding the Outdoor Basketball Initiative, and that Officers continue to investigate suitable sites for inclusion in the scheme; and
- (ii) the Officers carry out a full investigation into the siting of a basketball post at Worldsend Open Space in Forest Park.

449. **Bracknell Primary Schools Music and Dance Festival 1999 (Item 14)**

Further to a request on behalf of the Bracknell Primary Schools for support of a Primary Schools Music and Dance Festival at the Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre, the Committee considered the possibility of granting free use of the Sports Hall for the festival.

RESOLVED that free use of the Sports Hall on the occasion of the Bracknell Primary Schools Music & Dance Festival on 16 March 1999 be approved and that the DSO be reimbursed from the Leisure Events budget.

450. **School and Community Sports Link Audit (Item 15)**

The Acting Borough Leisure Officer presented a report giving details of the offer made to Bracknell Forest Borough Council by the English Sports Council of a sum of £4,000 towards

the £5,000 required to carry out an audit of the school and community sports links throughout the Borough.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Acting Borough Leisure Officer be authorised to accept the offer of grant by the English Sports Council with the conditions attached; and
- (ii) the Audit as outlined in this report be carried out.

451. Sandhurst Sports Centre Reception Improvements (Item 16)

The Committee considered a report giving details of the previously agreed capital scheme to improve the Sandhurst Sports Centre Reception, and requesting further expenditure of £32,000 from this year's capital programme.

RESOLVED that

- (i) £32,000 additional funding for the project be approved from the 1997/98 Leisure Capital Programme; and
- (ii) approval be given to accept the lowest tender received, from tenderer A in the sum of £165,389.

It was noted that the successful tenderer was Luff Construction Limited of Wokingham.

452. Leisure Capital Programme - Refurbishment of Coral Reef Toilets (Item 17)

The Committee considered a report seeking approval for a scheme to refurbish the toilets adjacent to the changing area at Coral Reef, to be carried out as part of the current major refurbishment works.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Committee approves additional funding of up to £25,000 for the Coral Reef toilets refurbishment from the 1997/98 Leisure Services Capital Programme; and
- (ii) the Committee approves the Borough Surveyor's acceptance of a single quotation for the work to refurbish the toilets at Coral Reef, subject to the Chairman's concurrence, and that in accordance with SO62, that SO60 shall not apply because the work can be ordered as a variation on the existing refurbishment contract at previously tendered rates.

453. Items Submitted for Information

The Committee noted the following reports which were submitted for information only:

Revised Budget 1997/98

Item 19

Countryside Service Annual Report

Item 20

The Committee congratulated Daniel Boucher and the Print Room on the Countryside Service annual report.

South Hill Park Funding

Item 21

The Committee requested another report giving further details on the funding of South Hill Park.

Arts Audit

Item 22

Customer Charges 1998 - Leisure Management DSO

Item 23

Leisure Capital Programme - Progress of Construction Projects

Item 24

National Reports and Guidelines relating to Libraries and Information Services

Item 25

Young People in Sport - Annual Report.

Item 26

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 11.20pm.

CHAIRMAN