

**LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
16 SEPTEMBER 1997**

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

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Ballin and Sargeant

Apologies for Absence were received from:
Councillor Good

254. Chairman's Announcements.

(a) Purchase of Land at Wildmoor Bottom by BBONT

The Chairman informed the Committee of the successful purchase of land at Wildmoor Bottom by BBONT, which the Council had supported with a grant.

(b) Nomination for Tourist Attraction of the Year Award

The Chairman reported that the Southern Tourist Board had nominated The Look Out for the "Visitor Attraction of the Year" award.

(c) Fireworks Display 1997

The Chairman announced that the Firework Display would be held on 8 November 1997, at Moss End, Warfield.

(d) Trip to Caesar's Camp

A trip to Caesar's Camp had been arranged for Councillors and their partners on 21 September 1997 at 2pm.

(e) Head of Libraries, Arts and Information

The Chairman introduced Ruth Burgess, newly appointed as Head of Libraries, Arts and Information, and welcomed her to the Council.

256. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 13 May and 24 June 1997 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

257. Urgent Action taken under Delegated Powers

The Committee received details of urgent action taken under delegated powers in respect of:

- (i) the refurbishment of Coral Reef Changing Area
- (ii) the replacement of the Main Air Handling Unit at Coral Reef

RESOLVED that the urgent action taken under delegated powers as detailed above be noted.

258. **Minutes of Sub & Liaison Committees**

The Committee receive the minutes of the following Sub & Liaison Committees:

- (i) Christmas Festivities and Millennium Sub Committee - 13 May and 22 July 1997
- (ii) Joint Golf Course Committee - 13 March 1997

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Sub and Liaison Committees as above be received and noted.

259. **South Hill Park Revenue Grant 1997/98. (Item 1)**

Tim Brinkman, the Director of South Hill Park, gave a presentation on the work undertaken at South Hill Park Arts Centre over the year 1996/97 which included a broad range of art forms in the workshop/education programme in the performance programme. In partnership with the Borough Council, an education scheme had been launched in October 1996, providing three days of professional arts work in every school in the Borough. Other work had included a range of specialist arts workshops, created for the elderly and others for young people at risk. Premieres of some works had been performed and new developments initiated. Mr Brinkman outlined the financial position for the Arts Centre for the financial year and answered questions thereon.

RESOLVED that a grant of £429,690 be authorised to South Hill Park for the 1997/98 financial year.

260. **South Hill Park - Park in the Schools. (Item 2)**

The Committee received a report giving details of the curriculum-based arts in school projects which had been offered to forty schools in the Borough for a period of up to three days. A range of professional arts activities had been provided relating to the national curriculum. Assessments of the pilot project had shown it to be very beneficial, and the scheme was considered to be very successful. On this basis it was suggested that the scheme should be run on a three year basis with academic year 1997/98 as year 1. Evaluation of this scheme would be undertaken by advisory staff.

RESOLVED that a grant of £16,500 be paid to South Hill Park in the 1997/98 financial year for the "Park in the Schools" project in the 1997/98 academic year, and that provision be made within the revenue budget for a further two years, subject to funding being available.

261. **South Hill Park - Request for Capital Grants. (Item 3)**

The Committee considered a report regarding requests for capital grants for South Hill Park in relation to gallery security improvements and car park security, both identified in the 1997/98 Leisure Capital Programme for South Hill Park.

RESOLVED that a grant of £50,000 be made to South Hill Park for improvements to gallery security and car park security, subject to approval of scheme details by the Borough Surveyor.

262. **Lily Hill Park. (Item 4)**

The Committee considered a report regarding the Draft Policy Statement on the future management of Lily Hill Park, further to the report received at the last Leisure Committee which had agreed that the views of the public should be sought on the Draft Policy Statement. The Committee commended the Officers on a thorough and informative Draft Policy Statement.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Committee recognises the wide public support that there is for the preservation and restoration of Lily Hill Park;
- (ii) the Committee adopts the policies identified in the Draft Policy Statement, subject to the amendments detailed in the report on consultation;
- (iii) the continued appointment of Clive Payne as consultant to assist with this project be authorised, subject to funding being available within existing budgets and to agreement of appropriate terms;
- (iv) preliminary work be undertaken in preparation for submitting a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund; and
- (v) a further report be submitted to the Leisure Services Committee once the outcome of the planning appeal is known.

263 **Replacement of Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) - Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre. (Item 5)**

The Committee considered a report regarding the project to replace the artificial turf pitch at Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- (i) approves the expenditure of up to £122,000 from the 1997/98 Capital Programme, for the replacement of the artificial turf pitch (ATP) on the basis of the proposals detailed within the Officers' report; and
- (ii) that the Borough Surveyor be authorised to seek tenders for the work and to accept the lowest in consultation with the Chairman.

264. **Capital Grants. (Item 6)**

The Committee received a report giving an update on grant applications which had already been agreed but for which no payments had yet been made. Outstanding grants requests were also detailed.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the transfer of £30,000 from the open spaces budget to the grants budget in the 1997/98 capital programme be approved; and
- (ii) the applicants of the outstanding grants requests as detailed in the Officers' report be invited to make presentations to future Leisure Services Committees regarding their requests.

265. **Great Hollands Community Centre. (Item 7)**

The Committee received a report regarding a request for funding by the County Council for refurbishment of the Community Centre. The County Council had agreed to contribute £60,000 towards the works, whilst requesting that the Borough Council contributes £30,000 to cover the remainder of the costs.

RESOLVED that the expenditure of £30,000 from the 1997/98 capital programme be approved for the purpose of refurbishing the Great Hollands Community Centre.

266. **Brackenhale School - Request for Additional Grants. (Tabled Item)**

The Committee received an urgent tabled item regarding a request for an additional grant of £8,660 towards developing Brackenhale School's sports facilities to allow greater community use. Since the original grant of £10,000 in July 1996, the costs of the scheme had risen, requiring an additional £8,660 to be found.

RESOLVED that the grant to Brackenhale School be increased from £10,000 to £18,660 using funding from the 1997/98 capital budget.

267. **Grant Variation Request. (Item 8)**

The Acting Borough Leisure Officer presented a report regarding proposed variations to the grant request by Sandhurst Town Council for the funding totalling £14,200 as approved by the Leisure Committee of 30 July 1996. The original grant had been awarded to cover the full estimated cost of play area improvements and the full estimated cost to replace the roof of the community pavilion. The variation to the request now involves the full amount of money being used as a contribution to the cost of demolishing the community pavilion and replacing it with a Youth Drop-In Centre.

RESOLVED that a decision regarding the grant variation request be deferred and that Sandhurst Town Council be requested to provide further information regarding the request, on receipt of which a Leisure Services Executive Sub Committee will be called in order to reach a decision on the matter.

268. **Martins Heron Community Centre. (Item 9)**

The Committee received a report regarding a request to release £50,000 of Section 106 funds for the purpose of building an extension to the Martins Heron Community Centre. The Committee had agreed to allocate £20,000 in September 1995, however, since that date the estimated costs with fittings had risen to £50,000. Planning permission would be required for the extension which was required due to lack of storage facilities at the current centre.

RESOLVED that a grant of £50,000 be made to Martins Heron Community Association for an extension to the Community Centre subject to:

- (i) obtaining the necessary consents;
- (ii) Strategy & Policy Committee agreeing the release of Section 106 funds from Charles Church, Martins Heron Fund (£39,555) and Charles Church, The Warren Fund (£10,445); and
- (iii) the project starting on site by March 1999.

269 **Community Centres. (Item 10)**

The Committee received a report giving details of the current “arms length” policy operated in relation to eleven community centres within the Borough and by the Borough Council. A request had been received by the Leisure Services Committee in June 1997 to clarify the current policy of support for the Community Associations.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve the following policy:

- (i) the Council will establish and maintain a relationship with the management committees of each community centre to the extent that the following objectives are satisfied:
- (ii) that the Council fulfil their duty to ensure that the public money invested in community centres is used for the purposes intended (i.e. for broad community benefit);
- (iii) the Council maintains regular communication with each management committee to ensure that expertise and assistance is provided when called for;
- (iv) The Council maintains sufficient awareness of the activities of each community centre in order to avoid the duplication of facilities in the same area and/or identify the need for additional facilities in a given area. This could be achieved by occasional meetings, Members’ reports (where a member serves on a management committee), a copy of the current constitution, minutes of meetings, annual accounts or similar common communications that do not place undue burden upon the centres; and
- (v) the Council will not become involved in the day to day running of any centre unless specifically requested to do so by the management committee involved or unless the management committee is no longer able to provide the necessary support to the centre adequate to sustain its purpose.

270. Leisure Aid Foundation. (Item 11)

The Committee received a report giving details of the need to reassess the current scheme of work of the Leisure Aid Foundation in the light of the amount of work required to be undertaken and the funding available to give small incentive grants to young people who are talented in a particular sporting, or artistic ability or potential. It was proposed that a new scheme be implemented to meet the original objectives of Leisure Aid Foundation but to be managed along more straightforward principles by the establishment of a revenue budget of £3,000 per year to finance the scheme and other criteria as detailed with the report.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) a new revenue budget be established from within the existing additional marketing budget, and that the Leisure Aid Foundation be replaced by a new scheme “Sports and Arts Grants for Young People”;
- (ii) the new scheme be administered under the conditions outlined in the Officer's report; and
- (iii) Strategy & Policy Committee be requested to authorise the necessary expenditure under Section 137 Local Government Act 1972.

271. Outdoor Basketball Initiative (OBI). (Item 12)

The Committee considered a report regarding a proposal for the Council to make a block application to the Outdoor Basketball Initiative on behalf of a number of sites for the provision of basketball posts.

RESOLVED that works be initiated subject to:

- (i) appropriate funding being available from existing budgets up to a total of £10,000 expenditure; Officer's investigate further the siting of basketball posts through the Outdoor Basketball Initiative, at sites which meet the required criteria; and
- (ii) subject to the Ward Councillors approval.

272. Exclusion of Public and Press.

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item only which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (5) Information relating to financial assistance.

273. Presentation by Warfield Parish Council, re: Westmorland Drive.

Councillors Shaw, Swindells and Taylor of Warfield Parish Council attended the Committee to give a presentation on the proposals to develop a pavilion at Westmorland Drive, Warfield, and answered questions thereon. The presentation was given after the exclusion of public and press due to the likely disclosure of exempt information.

274. Basketball Development Officer. (Item 13)

The Committee received a report reviewing the Basketball Development Officer's role is within the Council, in particular the shared role between the Sports Centre and the Young People in Sport Scheme. It was felt that, further to the resignation of the most recent post holder, these roles could now be separated. This could be achieved by continuing to run the activities at the Sports Centre from within existing resources with half of the Basketball Development Officer's salary. The 'Young People in Sports' scheme could be developed to include basketball along similar lines to the other schemes. Close links with the Thames Valley Tigers would be maintained.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the post of Basketball Development Officer be deleted from the establishment;
- (ii) half the current salary costs, currently funded by the DSO, be transferred to the Client to allow the Leisure Development Manager to further develop existing Young People in Sport Schemes and to incorporate basketball; and
- (iii) the DSO ensure the continuation of established basketball schemes at the Centre, including the Lunchtime League, holiday courses, etc.

275. Bracknell Half Marathon 1998. (Item 14)

The Committee received a report giving details of the arrangements for the 1998 Bracknell Half Marathon.

RESOLVED that the arrangements for the 1998 Bracknell Half Marathon be noted.

276 **Maintenance Budgets. (Item 15)**

The Committee received a report regarding the need to find funding for community centre maintenance and necessary repairs to the building at Horseshoe Lake through virement from other budget heads.

RESOLVED that the virement of £15,000 from “Additional Marketing Budget”, on the basis of £5,000 to the “Horseshoe Lake” budget and £10,000 to the "Community Centres" budget be approved.

277. **Leisure Services Focus Group. (Item 16)**

The Committee received a report giving details of the work undertaken by the Leisure Services Focus Group on 6 August 1997 regarding the Committee's list of agreed functions, terms of reference for the Committee and its Sub Committees, the current position of officer delegations and the need or otherwise for establishing additional sub committees or focus groups.

RECOMMENDED to Strategy & Policy Committee that:

- (i) the list of functions for the Leisure Services department, as detailed at Annexe 1 of the Report, be submitted for adoption;
- (ii) the words “and overall Council policy” should be deleted from item 1 of the Service Committees Primary Responsibilities as detailed in the Service Committee Standard Terms of Reference;
- (iii) the draft terms of reference attached at Annexe 1 of the Report for the Leisure Services Committee commencing on 1 April 1998 be adopted;
- (iv) the Leisure Services Executive Sub Committee act as an urgency Sub Committee with the following terms of reference:

“To act as an urgency Sub Committee for any matter within the terms of reference of the Leisure Services Committee”
- (v) Christmas festivities work currently undertaken by the Christmas Festivities and Millennium Sub Committee should be incorporated into the remit of the Leisure Services Committee;
- (vi) the area of work of the Christmas Festivities and Millennium Sub Committee dealing with Millennium issues be undertaken by a Sub Committee of Strategy and Policy Committee in order to facilitate a strategic overview of this work;
- (vii) a report be taken to the next meeting of the Edgbarrow and Sandhurst Sports Centre Management Committee recommending that the constitution be amended by reducing the membership by one person from 1 April 1998 to reflect the loss of County Council representations; and
- (viii) the issue of a Council’s grants-issuing mechanism be referred through Leisure Services Committee to the Strategy and Policy Committee for consideration.

278. **Items for Information. (Items 17, 18, 19 and 20)**

The Committee received and noted the following items submitted for information:

Revenue Budget Outturn Report 1996/97 (Item 17)

Background and Progress Report on the Major Improvement Scheme for South Hill Park - South Hill Park 2000 (Item 18)

UK and Ireland Corporate Games 1998 (Item 19)

Leisure Capital Programme - Construction Projects (Item 20)

279. Exclusion of Public and Press.

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Items 21, 22 and 23 which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (5) Information relating to financial assistance from the authority (Items 21 and 22)
- (7) Information relating to financial or business affairs of a third party (Item 23)

280. Proposed Pavilion - Westmorland Drive, Warfield. (Item 21)

Members of Warfield Parish Council updated the Committee on the proposals for the pavilion at Westmorland Drive, further to their earlier presentation.

The Committee considered a report containing exempt information relating to the proposals to develop the pavilion at Westmorland Drive. The Borough Solicitor updated the Committee on the complexities of the issue and the possible options that could be taken in order to progress this scheme. Option 1 would involve building a larger pavilion with the potential for a broad range of community uses, while Option 2 would involve the construction of a smaller pavilion ancillary to the open space.

RESOLVED that subject to:

- (i) the Planning Sub Committee deeming it appropriate to vary the terms of the Section 52 agreement so as to release the current owners of the Open Space 8 North Bracknell from their obligations to transfer the land to the Borough Council; and
- (ii) Warfield Parish Council producing a business plan to the satisfaction of the Borough Leisure Officer and Borough Finance Officer; and
- (iii) Warfield Parish Council confirming their agreement in principle to the course of action identified in (a) to (f) below by the end of September 1997 then;
 - (a) the developers be requested to transfer the land to the Parish; the land transfer agreement to be to the satisfaction of the Borough Solicitor;
 - (b) the Borough Council indemnify the developers/land owners as outlined in paragraph 4.1.2 of the Officer's report;
 - (c) the Borough agree to provide a grant of £591,767 (minus any future expenditure on this project) on terms to secure that the grant is properly applied to the construction of a pavilion; the agreement between the Parish

and the Borough to incorporate terms to secure the proper management of the pavilion and the recreation ground by the Parish Council;

- (d) delegated authority be given to the Officers, if necessary, to negotiate with the developers and fund future ongoing maintenance of Open Space 8 from the £150,000 allocated within the Section 52 agreement for maintenance;
- (e) the Borough agree that monies due for commuted maintenance payments (£150,000 approx) be handed over to the Parish Council instead of the Borough Council; and
- (f) Leisure Services Committee recommend to Strategy & Policy Committee that up to £250,000 be loaned to the Parish Council at Base Interest Rates by the Borough Council (terms of repayment to be agreed).

281. Proposed Heritage Lottery Application - Warfield/Winkfield Countryside Park. (Item 22)

In a report containing exempt information the Acting Borough Leisure Officer outlined a proposal to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to help fund the acquisition of land for a new countryside park in Warfield/Winkfield.

RESOLVED that an application be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant for the creation of a countryside park in Warfield/Winkfield.

282. Exempt Minutes of the Joint Golf Course Committee - 13 March 1997. (Item 23)

The exempt minutes of the Joint Golf Course Committee held on 13 March 1997 were submitted to the Committee for information.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 11.05pm.

CHAIRMAN