

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
24 JUNE 1997

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

Apologies for Absence were received from:
Councillors Bettison, Grayson and Wheaton

110. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 March 1997 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

111. **Urgent Action Taken Under Delegated Powers**

The Committee received details of an urgent action taken under delegated powers in relation to the formation of the Binfield Library Focus Group.

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

112. **Minutes - Binfield Library Group**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Binfield Library Group meeting for 14 May and 10 June 1997 be noted.

113. **Scheme of Delegation and Related Topics (Item 1)**

The Committee received a report regarding proposals made by the Annual Council meeting of 13 May 1997 that each main service policy committee should establish a focus group to undertake a full review of the functions, responsibilities and delegations with that committee in order to ensure completeness, accuracy and decide how each committee should fulfil its strategic and operational responsibilities. The focus group would report back to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 15 October 1997, and would be comprised of five Councillors together with officers as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that a focus group be established comprising Councillors Fawcett, Good, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes and North, plus the Borough Leisure Officer, Borough Finance Officer, Borough Solicitor and Borough Administrator or their representatives, appropriate County Council Officers and any other officers considered appropriate; with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To review the description of the functions assigned to the Committee to ensure they are complete and accurate;
- (ii) To examine the scope for delegating decision making activities in respect of the functions to Officers or to Sub Committees;
- (iii) To consider how best to achieve the strategic management functions assigned to the Committee; and
- (iv) To report back to the next meeting with firm proposals.

114. **Draft Leisure Strategy (Item 2)**

Jim Lynch of Strategy Leisure attended the Committee to give a presentation on the process undertaken by Strategy Leisure in the development of the Council's draft Leisure Strategy. He outlined the work

undertaken through market research, facilities audits, population analyses and general research. The results of the work has illustrated that the Borough's population was fairly affluent, mobile and leisure orientated with a high percentage of people under the age of 34 years. It was considered that provision of facilities was good and therefore the strategy had been based on modest growth with five main strands as follows:

- (i) An emphasis on young people;
- (ii) The preservation of assets;
- (iii) A local delivery of service;
- (iv) A development approach; and
- (v) Working to improve access.

It was considered that sports facilities provision within the Borough was at a reasonable level and that work should be undertaken to develop sports and arts provision within the Borough through schools. Opportunities existed for improvements to the library service through the development of the town centre. It was considered that the Borough provided a high standard of green space and that there would be a need to maintain the balance between access to creche areas and preserving the spaces. Mr Lynch outlined the importance of developing a consultation process for developing services within the Borough.

The Committee considered the draft Leisure Strategy and submitted questions thereon. Mr Lynch highlighted the importance of obtaining lottery funding for sports development and the benefits that could be obtained from the appointment of an officer designated to be responsible for lottery funding applications. Councillors considered the possible designation of a Community Centre Liaison Officer and noted that the Resource Analyses Focus Group would be considering additional Leisure Services posts in the near future.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Committee notes the receipt of the Draft Leisure Strategy document (1997 - 2002) and the contents therein;
- (ii) the Committee approves the further consultation period on the document by all interested parties to be completed by Tuesday 30 September 1997;
- (iii) a further presentation to be given to the Leisure Services Committee on Tuesday 11 November to finalise the draft document and approve future compilation, distribution and evaluation; and
- (iv) the Leisure Strategy be referred to all other main service Committees for consultation.

115. **Capital Programme Update. (Item 3)**

The Committee received a report giving details of the current Leisure Capital Programme and the proposed capital schemes for Coral Reef; the refurbishment of the changing areas and the installation of the air handling unit.

RESOLVED that the Capital Programme as detailed in Annexe 1 of the Officer's report and the capital schemes proposed for Coral Reef be approved.

116. **The Croft/Winkfield Parish Hall Development. (Item 4)**

The Committee received a report regarding the progress made to date with regards to the project to build a parish hall and associated recreational open space in Chavey Down, Winkfield. It was noted that tenders had been received for the project and that a shortfall of funding of £63,000 had been identified. The Committee considered the need to progress the project and the possible options for identifying the shortfall from elsewhere within the current Leisure capital programme.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Committee supports the need to provide an additional £63,000 towards the cost of the project to build the Croft/Winkfield parish hall development; and
- (ii) the £63,000 would be met from savings elsewhere in the Leisure capital programme, as detailed within the officer's report.

117. Leisure Capital Programme - Construction Projects. (Item 5)

The Borough Engineer & Surveyor reported on the progress of the following construction schemes within the Leisure Capital Programme.

- (i) Coral Reef major refurbishment of changing rooms - scheme gone out to tender;
- (ii) The Look Out extension - works to extend cafe, shop and toilets almost completed;
- (iii) The Look Out overflow car park - works complete;
- (iv) Carnation Hall (The Croft - tenders received);
- (v) Coral Reef replace air handling unit - tenders received;
- (vi) Sandhurst Sports Centre new entrance and gym - preparation underway for tendering in September;
- (vii) Edgbarrow Sports Centre - replacement ATP - going out to tender;
- (viii) Edgbarrow Sports Centre replacement of Granwood Floor in the Main Hall - work to be completed in July.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Committee notes the progress of schemes previously approved by the Committee; and
- (ii) tender B for the construction of the new Community Centre at The Croft, Winkfield be accepted.

118. Section 106 Funds - Open Space and Community Facilities. (Item 6)

The Committee considered a report regarding the Section 106 Funds available for open spaces and community projects, giving details of existing commitments and proposed allocations for the Section 106 Funds.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the committed projects and provisionally allocated projects detailed in the Officer's report be noted; and
- (ii) the Officer's report be sent to the parish councils for information.

119. The Look Out - Cleaning Specification. (Item 7)

The Committee considered a report giving details of the cleaning specification which had been drawn up to undertake increased cleaning requirements at The Look Out in view of greater usage in the exhibition, shop, play area, car park and general flow areas. Expressions of interest had been sought from external contractors and tenders have been received thereon. Expressions of interest were far in

excess of the current cleaning budget and therefore it was proposed to create the establish of three new part time cleaner posts to cover the increase in workload.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Committee approves the establishment of 3 new part time cleaner posts to cover a total of 16 hours per week, the cost of which would be accommodated within the existing approved net budget for The Look Out, subject to the concurrence of Personnel sub Committee; and
- (ii) the cleaning specification and operation be reviewed after twelve months and that a report be brought back to the Leisure Services Committee if considered necessary.

120. **Part Time Temporary Admin. Assistant. (Item 8)**

The Acting Borough Leisure Officer presented a record requesting permission for the appointment of a part time Administration Assistant on a fixed term contract until 31 March 1998 to work in the Central Leisure Office at Easthampstead House in order to deal with both the existing workload and the workload to be generated by the transition to a unitary authority.

RESOLVED that the Committee approves the appointment of a 15 hours per week Administration Assistant on BG I for a fixed term period up to 31 March 1998, subject to the concurrence of the Personnel Sub Committee.

121. **Land South of Cabbage Hill, Warfield. (Item 9)**

The Committee received a report seeking approval to proceed with the building of the bridge given access to land recently purchased as open space at Cabbage Hill. Approval was also sought to open up a riverside path along The Cut.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The Borough Engineer & Surveyor be authorised to spend up to £50,000 on construction of a bridge to land south of Cabbage Hill, and that he be authorised to accept tenders for the works in consultation with the Chairman, and
- (ii) the riverside path be signposted.

122. **Lily Hill Park. (Item 10)**

The Committee received a report giving details of proposals to undertake a public consultation exercise on the draft policy statement for the management of Lily Hill Park in order to guide the Council to re-establish the integrity between the House and the Park, restore the original park design and resolve or mitigate any factors which undermine the quality or nature of the Park or its use for informal recreation.

RESOLVED that the views of the public be sought on the draft policy statement for Lily Hill Park by 8 August 1997.

123. **Blackwater Valley Footpath/Cycling. (Item 11)**

In response to the consultation process undertaken by the Blackwater Valley Countryside and Recreation Management Service regarding the issue of whether cycling should be permitted on the Blackwater Valley footpath, the Committee considered implications of having access for both cyclist and pedestrians.

RESOLVED that the Council support the concept of cycling along the Blackwater Valley footpath, subject to any necessary alterations to highway status of the route.

124. **Southern Screen. (Item 12)**

The Committee considered a report regarding the Southern Screen, a film commission company funded by local authorities and regional arts boards, who acted as a one-stop shop for promoting and marketing locations, facilities, personnel and services in the South and South-East to the film and television industries. It was noted that this Council currently supported Southern Screen, and it was proposed to carry on this support in the 1997/98 municipal year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and approval be given to the funding of Southern Screen for 1997/98 in the sum of £600 (plus VAT).

125. **Sport South. (Item 13)**

A request had been received from Councillor John Dawson of New Forest District Council requesting financial support from Bracknell Forest of £250 and seeking commitment, continuance and development of Sport South.

RESOLVED that the Committee support the commitment, continuance and development of Sport South and that a contribution of £250 for the period 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998 be approved.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.40pm.

CHAIRMAN