

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 24 FEBRUARY 2004**

Present:- Councillor D Morson – Chairman
Councillors H Baker, V Lelliott, J Loughlin, J Menell, J Murphy,
G Sell and F Silver.

Officers in attendance:- S McLagan, I Orton, B Perkins and C Roberts.

CL34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abrahams, Boland and Schneider.

CL35 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 January 2004 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the deletion of the words “the Community Partnership” from the last paragraph of Minute 29.

CL36 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute CL23(i) – Community and Leisure Grant Schemes

Members heard that the Task Group had not met yet.

(ii) Minute CL25 – Thaxted Guildhall – budget arrangements

The Head of Community and Leisure Services said that no further information had been received about financial support from other bodies to the Guildhall.

(iii) Minute CL28 – Thaxted Festival Grant Request

Councillor Silver said he felt the Festival should be more self-supporting.

(iv) Minute CL33 – Uttlesford Superstars

Councillor Silver told the meeting that this project was progressing well, but there were problems with insurance. He was grateful for the assistance which officers had given, particularly Alex Stewart who had supported meetings about the project.

**CL37 THAXTED FESTIVAL GRANT – REFERENCE FROM SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE NO 1**

The Committee received a reference from Scrutiny Committee No 1 as follows:-

“...the decision on Thaxted Festival Grant Request be referred back to the Community and Leisure Committee with an indication of the Committee’s disappointment that the Festival is not to take place, the suggestions of the Scrutiny Committee for reduction of the expense of the Festival and the offer of Councillors Harris, Jones, Row and Tealby-Watson to form a committee to assist with fundraising for the event.”

The Chairman of the Committee told Members that since the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee the Members of that Committee had been informed of and were satisfied with the arrangements made for development of music/youth initiatives.

Members were informed by the Chairman that arrangements to develop music/youth initiatives had been made with Essex Youth Services and the Rainer Music Foundation using accommodation at Fairycroft and the opportunity presented by the U2004 event in Dunmow. This would be aimed particularly at young people aged 13-15. It was intended that this initiative should be publicised through youth clubs at Dunmow and Stansted and Council run courses during the school holidays.

Councillor V Lelliott said that he found the way Minute s1.40 had been written misleading ; he had not been sure from it that it was the Youth side rather than the Thaxted Festival, which was not being pursued.

Councillor G Sell asked officers to make sure that courses were advertised to all young people, not just those at Youth Clubs.

The Chairman of the Committee added that the four members named were happy to help to progress the initiatives described and that Councillor Schneider wished to be included.

The Head of Community and Leisure Services added that Members were welcome to attend at any of the activities provided and should contact her or the relevant officer to arrange this.

CL38

MUSEUM RESOURCE CENTRE PROJECT

(Councillor H Baker declared an interest in so far as she was the Chairman of the Trustees of the Saffron Walden Almshouse Trust.)

Members received the report of the Museum Curator recommending that a Project Task Group be established to progress this project and report back to the Committee in the Autumn. The report outlined possible sources of funds for the project and stressed the need to develop an Audience Development Plan and a fully costed business plan

RESOLVED

That a Project Task Group composed of Councillors Hibbs, Morson, Murphy and Row, be established to consider the options for the development of a Museum Resource Centre and

recommend the way forward in a report to the Committee at its October meeting.

CL39

PFI LEISURE CONTRACT – MEMBER INFORMATION/INVOLVEMENT

Councillor G Sell declared an interest in so far as his stepson had a weekend job at one of the Leisure Centres.

Members had asked to be informed about and involved in the monitoring of the PFI Leisure Contract.

The Head of Community and Leisure Services detailed the following arrangements to inform and involve Members in aspects of the PFI Leisure Contract. Members were asked to advise the Chairman of the Committee and the Head of Community and Leisure Services in advance of the relevant month if they wish to attend a Focus Group meeting.

- (i) Regular meetings of the Chairman of the Committee and the Head of Community and Leisure Services with the PFI Contract Manager for the three Leisure Centres and his Area Manager (notes of meeting circulated to Members).
- (ii) Focus Group meetings held four times a year (a Member is invited to attend each meeting to observe and feed back to Leisure Connection Staff and/or the Chairman or Head of Community about Leisure Services).
- (iii) Annual presentation to Members prior to the October meeting of the Community and Leisure Committee.
- (iv) Six-monthly reports to Scrutiny Committee No 1 on outcome of monitoring of Leisure Centres.
- (v) User and non-user surveys – results to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the arrangements be noted.

CL40

SERVICE PLANS 2004/05 – COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES

The Committee received a report by the Head of Community and Leisure Services and the Performance Manager covering the Service and Financial Planning cycle within the authority in general and the Community and Leisure Service Plan 2004/05.

Members discussed its content and asked a number of questions.

RESOLVED

that the Committee notes the Service Planning process and confirms the Service Plan for Community and Leisure Services for 2004/05

CL41

BEACON COUNCIL BID FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM.

Members noted that the Council had had very little time to assemble evidence for this bid, and that the bid had failed only at the last round.

RESOLVED

That the comments received from the ODPM be noted and used for reference to inform future bids.

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm.