

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 25 MAY 2004**

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

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

CL42 WELCOME TO VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed Councillor F Silver, recently appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Committee.

CL43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared interests:

Councillor J Menell as regards her membership of Uttlesford Primary Care Trust, and
Councillor G Sell as regards his step-son's employment at one of the Leisure Centres.

CL44 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 February 2004 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CL45 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute CL36 – Community and Leisure Grant Schemes

Members were informed of the timetable for consideration of presentations and grant applications by the Task Group.

(ii) Minute CL36 – Thaxted Guildhall

A further report would be submitted to the Committee in September.

(iii) Minute CL36 – Uttlesford Superstars

Councillor Silver told the meeting that this project had not been progressed because the Leisure Centre had been unwilling to provide suitable accommodation.

(iv) Minute CL37– Music/Youth Initiatives

The Head of Community and Leisure Services updated the meeting on arrangements for match-funded musical /youth activities.

CL46 **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE NO 1 – MINUTE S1.49 LEISURE CONTRACT MONITORING**

The Chairman drew to the attention of Members the concerns of Scrutiny Committee No 1 about the cost of activities and the quality of services provided. A councillor said that value branded activities were needed and asked whether a joint approach with other customers of Leisure Connection might assist. The Chairman reminded Members that some discounts had already been received and negotiations were in process to obtain more.

Another Member stated that the card which was intended to show discounted facilities was unintelligible. It was also noted that a high proportion of users lived within a mile of the Centre and that cheap team activities such as a five-a-side football league were needed.

The Head of Community and Leisure Services agreed to raise this with the Regional Manager but stressed that the District Council could not have much influence over pricing since the contractor was operating in a competitive market. She agreed however to provide members with a list of the three “baskets” of prices for activities, and the limits if any on the contractor applying price changes in each “basket”.

CL47 **SURVEY OF LEISURE CENTRE USERS AND NON USERS**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Community and Leisure Services on the first part of this survey and an explanation of the substantial nature of this exercise. An action plan would be prepared on the basis of the survey when completed., the whole being consolidated for the meeting of the Committee in September.

Matters noted by Members included, in the surveyed Centre, the fact that 86% of customers were unaware of the existence of the customer forum, the dissatisfactions of the disabled and the fact that it had been difficult to get doctors’ referrals made.

Members asked that details of size of membership at each Centre be included with the survey information..

RESOLVED that

- 1 The results of the Great Dunmow Leisure Centre survey are noted
- 2 Members contact the Leisure Manager direct with any issues or comments about the outstanding survey results
- 3 An Action Plan to address the key issues raised by the surveys be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

CL48 BLUE PLAQUES

The Committee considered a report by Ian Orton on the possibility of submitting a bid for English Heritage Blue Plaques within the District to raise the profile of Uttlesford and to promote the District for tourism. He explained that Blue Plaque awards were linked to a useful tourists' website and to a series of tourist guides in book form.

Members thought there were several relevant notable personalities who had lived in the District, and it was suggested that bids should be made under the scheme annually.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the Council support the concept of Blue Plaques
- 2 That the names of Dick Turpin and Henry Winstanley are forwarded to English Heritage by 10 August, 2004 to be considered for Blue Plaques.
- 3 That Members receive an annual report on Blue Plaques when additional names for Blue Plaques will be considered and that officers approach parish councils for nominations for future years

CL49 FORWARD PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR

The Committee received a report by the Head of Community and Leisure Services 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

CL50 MUSEUM MANAGEMENT TASK GROUP

The Chairman explained that whilst normally the Vice-Chairman was a member of the Task Group, Councillors Silver and Loughlin were content that with the agreement of the Committee Councillor Loughlin should replace Councillor Silver on the Group.

RESOLVED that the new arrangement be approved.

CL51 SAFFRON WALDEN SKATE GROUP

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Saffron Walden Skate Group had invited the Council to have a representative Councillor on their Group.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor J Murphy be appointed as the Council's representative on this Group.

CL52

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/5 CINEMA AT SAFFRON WALDEN

The Performance Manager informed the meeting of the progress towards delivering the Quality of Life project;

To Develop the Saffron Walden Council Chamber to offer public cinema on regular days throughout the month.

As a result of the feasibility study it had emerged that the Council Chamber could be converted to show presentations rather than films and that young people wanted a facility more like a conventional cinema. However as a result of the publicity around the concept of a cinema within the Council Chamber the Council had been approached by the Chair of Governors of Saffron Walden High School who had suggested a partnership approach towards cinema provision at the School..

As part of the feasibility study a more imaginative use of audio-visual presentations within the Council Chamber had been considered. The cost of a comprehensive system linked to presentations (not a cinema) was assessed at around £18,000. It was recommended that the Resources Committee be informed that the £80,000 Capital Funding for the Cinema would not be spent in 2004/05 but that Community and Leisure Committee support a spend of up to £18,000 to introduce an audio-visual package into the Council Chamber.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Officers continue discussions with Saffron Walden High School and a capital funding request is considered in due course;
- 2 it be noted that the £80,000 Capital Fund allocation for the Cinema Project will not be spent in 2004/05;
- 3 the Resources Committee be requested to allocate up to £18,000 from the 2004/05 Capital Programme to introduce an audio visual package into the Council Chamber.

CL53

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it included the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in paragraphs 7 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CL54 GARDEN AT REAR OF 50 CASTLE STREET

Following a recommendation of the Museum Management Task Group, The Committee considered a report on progress made with a review of rent for the garden at the rear of 50 Castle Street, and other possibilities which had been researched.

RESOLVED that subject to agreement as to the consideration payable, the Community & Leisure Committee and Museum Society agree to the sale of part of the garden to the tenant of 50 Castle Street and, in default of agreement, for sale negotiations be entered into for an increased rent.

CL55 REPATRIATION OF TOI MOKO

Following a recommendation of the Museum Management Task Group the Committee considered a request from the Museum of New Zealand for repatriation of two toi moko which had been acquired by the Saffron Walden Museum in 1836.

It was noted that there was no further educational value from retaining the toi moko and that ethical and cultural considerations favoured repatriating them.

RESOLVED that the request of the Museum of New Zealand be granted.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.