

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 25 OCTOBER 2005**

Present:- Councillor D J Morson – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, H D Baker, P Boland, J E Menell,
and G Sell.

Also present:-Councillor J P Murphy.

Officers in attendance:- G Bradley, D Burrige, C Roberts and C Wingfield.

CL78 PRESENTATION

A presentation by the consultants Strategic Leisure on the Uttlesford Leisure Strategy had taken place immediately before the meeting as a part of the process of preparation of the new draft Leisure Strategy. A summary is attached at the end of these minutes.

CL79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S V Schneider, M Miller and F E Silver.

Councillor J E Menell declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association and also as a non-executive director of the Primary Care Trust.

CL80 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2005 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CL81 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute CL67 – Community Safety Officer

The Leisure Manager reported that the advertisement had been placed for a replacement Community Safety Officer.

(ii) Minute CL70 (iii) – Leisure Centres Leisure Card Scheme

The Leisure Manager informed the Committee that the District might be able to pursue the introduction of a Connexions card.

(iii) Minute CL70(iv) – Forward Programme

It was noted that the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Peter Wilcock, had been appointed as Council representative on the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership.

CL82 COMMUNITY SPORTS OUTREACH WORKERS

The Leisure Manager presented a report advising members about the work undertaken by the Sports Outreach Workers from January to September 2005 and recommending that if external funding is not obtained to continue with the project the Council include these workers within the 2006/07 base budget as an ongoing cost.

Members felt that outreach work was most important and asked about funding from other organisations. The Leisure Manager explained that certain funding routes were only available for national projects and that some topping up had already been received aside from Home Office "start up" funds. The Leisure and Community staff were pursuing all funding possibilities.

RESOLVED that the inclusion of £20,000 for the cost of the Sports Outreach Workers within the draft 2006/07 base budget be considered at the next meeting of the Committee in January 2006, with a final decision being made at that time or on receipt of further information on possible external funding.

CL83 DIVERSITY FESTIVAL

The Leisure Manager presented a report about the first multi-agency Diversity Festival which had been held on Sunday 18 September 2005. The report suggested that Members, Officers and partner agencies should review the Festival to decide whether or not the event should be repeated and, if so, how often and whether the format should be changed.

The Leisure Manager reported on feedback sought and received about the Festival and described its purpose and the costs identified to date.

Members debated possible ways in which the Festival could be repeated and expressed their thanks for the immense contribution of effort towards the Festival made by the Leisure Manager and the Cultural Services Officer, without which the Festival could not have happened.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Members, Officers and partner agencies review the Festival and consider whether or not this event should be repeated, the level of resources required, and the possible format and frequency of the event.
- 2 Members and Officers undertake further work to decide where the responsibility should lie within the Council for production of such a Festival and the work required to continue to develop methods of engaging with hard to reach groups.
3. That a report be brought to a future committee to advance the development of the agenda for working with hard to reach groups.

- 4 That a meeting be arranged between interested group representatives with a view to establishing a discussion forum on this topic

CL84

SAFFRON WALDEN SKATEBOARD PARK

(Councillor G Sell declared an interest in as much as he was a member of Stansted Parish Council which wanted more equipment for its skateboard park.)

The Committee received a report that a request for a contribution towards the Skate Park development had been received from the Saffron Walden Skate Group. The Leisure Manager sought Members' views on whether or not a contribution should be made and what amount should be committed to the project.

The Chairman of the Committee explained that any contribution would be subject to the final determination of the Resources Committee and would be subject to provision of an acceptable management plan.

He paid tribute to the hard work carried out by the Saffron Walden Skate Park Group, three members of which were present at the meeting and spoke about the funding needs of the Group and their successes to date in raising funds for provision of a Saffron Walden Skate Park.

Members of the Committee asked about likely expenses of maintenance and management of the Park, parking requirements, the extent of fund-seeking which had been carried out and the effect upon the Council's tenant, Turpins Bowling Club. They also asked about the lifespan of the proposed equipment and the experience of the proposed contractor in building skate parks.

The members of the Saffron Walden Skate Park Group answered questions and explained that a draft management plan had already been formed by representatives of the Group and of the Saffron Walden Town Council.

The Chairman of the Committee suggested that there was as yet insufficient information for the Committee to take a firm decision on a financial contribution.

RESOLVED that

- 1 A decision on this matter be deferred pending receipt of proposals for the management plan and that in the meantime members of the Uttlesford District and Saffron Walden Town Councils and the Saffron Walden Skate Park Group meet to gain more information to feed back to the Committee at its meeting in January 2006 when the question of contribution be discussed again.

- 2 Any financial contribution made towards the establishment of a Skate Park be conditional upon the production of an acceptable management plan.

CL85 **DRAFT MUSEUM SERVICE FORWARD PLAN: INTERIM REPORT**

The Museum Curator presented a report on the Service's draft long-term Forward Plan which set out its strategic direction for up to ten years ahead, and fulfilled requirements for Accreditation and funding applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund. It envisaged two main stages, Stage I (the Heritage Quest Centre project) which would pave the way for Stage II (development of the Museum building and Castle site). Maximisation of income generation, in support of the Museum Service's aims, was an integral part of this and featured mainly in Stage II.

Members were asked to comment on the plan and the proposals for employing a business consultant to assess specific areas identified for financial feasibility and income generation. Subject to appropriate financial advice being obtained, it was proposed to present the completed Forward Plan for approval early in 2006.

Members asked about the proposed re-siting of the Tourist Information Centre and the Leisure Manager gave details of possible costs involved and the advantages and disadvantages of the current site.

RESOLVED that the draft Forward Plan be noted at this stage.

CL86 **MUSEUM EDUCATION POLICY**

Members received a report which provided details of the Education Policy for the Museum Service. The Education Policy would be submitted for Accreditation (the government scheme formerly known as Registration for museums) in 2006, and to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and possibly other potential funding bodies in respect of the Heritage Quest Centre project.

Members commented that considering the limited resources the work being done was very good.

RESOLVED that the Committee approves the Museum Service's Education Policy.

CL87 **IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CONSTITUTION**

The Executive Manager (Environmental & Cultural Services), presented a report advising the Committee of the need to report back to the Full Council at its meeting in December about implementation of the new Constitution following the latest Council decision. It recommended a number of suggestions to assist the new Community Committee with its work.

The Executive Manager (Environmental & Cultural Services) explained that the recommended changes were necessary to assist the Committee to discharge some of its huge workload.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Museum Resource Centre Task Group and the Bridge End Gardens Task Group continue to meet until conclusion of their tasks and make recommendations to the Community Committee.
- 2 the Museum Management Task Group and the Community Achievement Awards Panel are redefined as Work Groups and report to the Community Committee.
- 3 any presentation takes place prior to the meetings of the Community Committee allowing meetings to commence at 7.30 pm.
- 4 the Community Committee advises Officers to notify Members of issues 'for noting' in the Members Bulletin.

CL88

LAST MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Councillor G Sell offered a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and officers of the Committee and congratulated the Chairman on the Committee's list of very solid achievements, mentioning the restoration of the Bridge End Gardens and the Diversity Festival as examples.

The Chairman gave credit to the support and constructive criticism which had been received from the Committee's Members. He added that he had much enjoyed chairing the Committee's meetings and he expressed his thanks to Members and officers.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

PRESENTATION BY THE CONSULTANTS STRATEGIC LEISURE ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW DRAFT UTTLESFORD LEISURE STRATEGY

Philip Barefoot and Rachel Fowler on behalf of Strategic Leisure, consultants, explained that the aim of the study was to produce a five year plan for development of Uttlesford Leisure Strategy. They stated a number of issues which would form a part of the research preparatory to the plan, stressing the importance of environmental improvement, health, social inclusion, wide partnership working and consultation, and they encouraged Members to contribute their views on what key issues should be included. Subjects mentioned included the price of transport and the availability of public open space (for which planning links were essential).

The meeting went on to enumerate existing strengths; the three Leisure Centres, the outreach services, village sports and other clubs, and village halls and open space facilities.

There was shortage, however, of play areas, youth clubs, transport to take young people to facilities and youth discounts for leisure facilities, particularly swimming lessons, as well as the lack of a cinema. Also, increasing insurance burdens were threatening many leisure aspects of country life which the Parish Councils would otherwise gladly undertake for the benefit of young people. Concern was expressed about the isolation of rural children immediately after school. It was felt that school resources should be freed up for after school activities. One off events such as the Diversity Festival should be followed up and volunteer helpers identified.

The consultants' representatives proposed a list of items for investigation and informed the meeting that they would come back to the Committee with feedback and a draft strategy in the new year.