

**LEISURE (PFI) BOARD MEETING held at 10.00 am on 1 MAY 2001 at
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN**

Present: Councillor R J Copping – Chairman.
Councillors R A E Clifford, A J Ketteridge and A R Row.

Officers in attendance: Mrs E Forbes, Mrs L Bunting, Ms K Chapman,
J B Dickson, Mrs S McLagan and Mrs J Postings.

PFI 80 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure (PFI) Board held on 24 April 2001 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PFI 81 BUSINESS ARISING

Minute PFI 69 – (ii) PFI Forum

The Project Manager said that arrangements were in hand to organize the next PFI Forum.

PFI 82 PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH LINTEUM

The Project Manager updated Members on the issue of affordability of the project. She reported that she had been in contact with the Bank of Scotland with regard to various matters relating to the current interest rates and this had proved to be helpful. Councillor Copping expressed concern that the initiative to make such enquiries had been taken by the Project Manager rather than Linteum. Concern was also expressed regarding the movement of interest rates and what figure to finally request from the Council. The Chief Executive said a ceiling figure agreement must be obtained from Members.

Councillor Row was concerned the date for completing and signing the contract was now fast approaching and that this must be done by 30 June 2001. He was also concerned that the timetable was now running late and the project would not be finalised by Spring 2002. The Project Manager said that the completion of the Dunmow Leisure Centre would probably now be August 2002.

Subject to Members' agreement, it was proposed that a special meeting of Policy and Resources would be arranged for 4 June. Prior to this briefing sessions would be held for Members where the Project Manager would make a presentation at the meeting on the outline proposals, operation risks, the workings of the PFI scheme and the reachable objectives of the project. An item would then be presented, in straightforward terms, outlining funding issues. The Director of Resources would outline the financial impact for Uttlesford and the Chief Executive would then give a short conclusion. A special meeting of the Council would also be arranged for 18 June for the resolution of the final contract.

PFI 83 BMX TRACK AT LORD BUTLER FITNESS AND LEISURE CENTRE

The Project Manager circulated a plan showing the layout of land at the Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre. The application by Saffron Walden Town Council for a BMX track on the site had been refused at the Community Services Committee held on 3 April 2001.

A discussion followed on the possible leasing of the parcel of land to Linteum Leisure. Councillor Ketteridge asked why we should lease to them as this would reduce our rights to use the land as and when it was required. He said that he had no objection to Linteum using the land as long as Uttlesford retained its rights.

After discussion it was agreed not to lease the portion of land, originally earmarked for use as a BMX track, to Linteum Leisure.

PFI 84 SCHOOLS UPDATE

(i) Helena Romanes School

The Project Manager reported that a meeting had been held by a sub-committee of Governors at the school during which they had discussed the management agreement and legal costs.

The Chairman of the Governors Sub Committee had spoken to the Chief Executive and stated that the Governors were concerned about some of the items within the agreement. He also stated that the Governors believed that the Council had originally committed the legal fees. They would be discussing this matter further at a Full Governor meeting in May. They also thought it was likely that they would want the old swimming pool to be filled in and wanted six months in which to finalise this decision.

Councillor Ketteridge said that the situation regarding the Helena Romanes School was not acceptable and that the timetable could be further delayed because of the lack of agreement between the parties concerned. He considered that the school should be advised that if decisions were not made and adhered to, the project would not proceed. Members agreed that it was necessary the Governors' should agree or there would be no other opportunity for the community to obtain this type of facility if this project were to fail. Councillor Copping considered that there was antipathy towards the Council that was clouding the issues.

The Project Manager said that the Bank would stipulate that the school's requirements must be finalised before the contract can be signed. A meeting to resolve these problems was to be held on 11 May and hopefully, greater understanding between the parties would be achieved and further progress would be made. It was decided to wait for the outcome of the meeting on 11 May and hope that agreement would be forthcoming.

(ii) Stansted Mountfitchet High School

It was reported that there were no current problems at Stansted Mountfitchet High School.

PFI 85 LEISURE PFI FORUM

After discussion it was decided that the PFI Forum should be arranged for a date after 18 June.

PFI 86 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Board will be arranged for 15 May at 10.00 am in the Committee Room.

PFI 87 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman commented that the work of the Project Manager was much appreciated together with her determination to see the project run to fruition.

The meeting ended at 11.35 am.