

**OLYMPICS WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.00 pm on 20 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Present: Councillor M Lemon – Chairman.
Councillors S Favell, A Ketteridge, E Oliver and J Rich.

Also present: Councillor H Rolfe and Parish Councillor A Yarwood – Newport
Parish Council.

Officers in attendance: G Bradley (Community Partnerships Manager);
L Bunting (Democratic Services Officer); L Lipscombe (Emergency
Planning Officer) and J Mitchell (Chief Executive).

OWG14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Davies, D Morson and
C Wingfield (Museum Curator).

There were no declarations of interest.

OWG15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 2 August 2011 were
approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

OWG16 'SPARKS WILL FLY IN UTTLESFORD' – UPDATE

The Community Partnerships Manager gave a presentation which updated
Members on the details for the proposed events. In general, as part of the
Cultural Olympiad, Essex County Council was commissioning a company to
produce a countywide, cultural celebration to be held from 16 May – 16 July
2012. The company would create “two epic journeys performing the story of two
giant characters that would arrive in Essex by air, land or sea. Each character
would journey throughout Essex and perform at local events or venues identified
as Big Journey Stops”. Local authorities across Essex had been asked to
identify key events for their journey stops. There would also be at least eight
smaller visits to rural events and residential homes. This would culminate in a
“spectacular night-time performance at Hylands Park, Chelmsford on 21 July
2012. A theatrical combat in the form of giant chariot race, dividing the audience
loyalties in support of one character or the other before a magnificent climax with
fire and fireworks. The aim was to present Essex as a major player in the
national celebrations”.

The Uttlesford ‘Sparks Will Fly Event’ would be held at the Saffron Walden
Museum on Saturday, 19 May 2012. The Giant Champion on its chariot would
lead a procession through the town up to the Museum where it would be
welcomed and there would be an exchange of gifts.

The Community Partnerships Manager outlined the financial implications for the
event and a discussion took place on the contributions which would have to be
made by the Council.

OWG17

OLYMPIC TORCH

With regard to the Olympic Torch Relay, which would possibly pass through this area between Chelmsford and Cambridge on 7 July 2012, the Community Partnerships Manager reported that it would be necessary to dress the District for the event, dependant upon the final official route. She explained that the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) had prepared an essential "Look Book" of materials for the purpose of dressing the route and gave examples of costs as outlined from the official book.

It had been suggested at the last meeting of the Olympic Working Group that an event such as "It's a Knock Out" or a children's tea party, and the use of the grounds at Audley End House be investigated. The Community Partnerships Manager reported on her findings. Unfortunately the Events Manager at Audley End House had confirmed that English Heritage would definitely not allow any events requiring infrastructure such as marquees, toilets etc., in the grounds on that weekend as they had not yet confirmed their yearly programme of concerts which would be setting up as from Monday, 9 July 2012.

Councillor Rich commented that the event needed a prestigious venue and was disappointed at English Heritage's 'bizarre' decision. However, the Community Partnerships Manager reported that the Common in Saffron Walden had been provisionally booked for the event and Newport School had been approached and a response was still awaited.

Councillor Ketteridge put forward a suggestion of an inter school sports day. Members discussed this with the Chief Executive suggesting Members' participation in such an event.

The Community Partnerships Manager gave comprehensive examples of a professionally organised "It's a Knock Out", a children's tea party, a young people's music event and a community afternoon of art, craft, sport and music event. In general, the costings of all suggestions were indicative, and subject to the chosen event, the Council would need to earmark a realistic budget.

The Chairman suggested finding out what other districts were organising and Councillor Favell commented on the restriction to the use of the "Look Book" and said that the figures were worrying.

After discussion it was agreed by Members that no decision be made on events until after the announcement of the official route in November.

OWG18

DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Community Partnerships Manager reported that all parish councils had been updated with information regarding the Diamond Jubilee for the arrangements of their individual events.

OWG19

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that a meeting would be held on Monday, 7 November 2011 at 6.30 pm.

Councillor Rolfe said that the Community Partnerships Manager had taken on a lot of work in putting together the report on the proposed events. The Chairman then thanked her for all the work undertaken so far.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.