



COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 8 January 2020

Time: 6.00pm

Location: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Contact: Ian Gourlay (01438) 242703

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Members: Councillors: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice-Chair), S Booth, A Brown, T Callaghan, A Farquharson, L Harrington, J Mead, C Parris and L Rossati.

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - 4 NOVEMBER 2019

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Select Committee held on 4 November 2019.

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3. SPORTS AND LEISURE SCRUTINY REVIEW - EVIDENCE GATHERING

Members are invited to receive evidence and interview Louise Gallagher-Smith (Sporting Futures) to inform the Sports and Leisure scrutiny review.

4. SPORTS AND LEISURE SCRUTINY REVIEW - DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

To consider the draft recommendations for the Sports and Leisure scrutiny review.

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5. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Chair as urgent

6. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions:

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent

Agenda Published 20 December 2019

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Monday, 4 November 2019

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Margaret Notley (Vice-Chair), Adrian Brown, Teresa Callaghan, Alex Farquharson, Liz Harrington, John Mead, Claire Parris and Loraine Rossati.

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm
Time: End Time: 7.15pm

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no apologies for absence and no declarations of interest.

2 **MINUTES - TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Select Committee held on 17 September 2019 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 **SPORTS & LEISURE SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Members reported back to the Committee on the evidence gathered for the Scrutiny Review into Sports and Leisure.

John O'Callaghan, Herts Sports Partnership and Jen Jeffries, Chair of the Youth Council were in attendance at the meeting. Apologies had been received from Louise Gallagher-Smith, Sporting Futures.

Members were presented with survey responses from the Youth Council and from Member residents' survey regarding Sports and Leisure across Stevenage and some Member responses to their own desktop and fact finding research.

Councillor Margaret Notley, Vice-Chair of the Committee gave a report to the Committee in relation to Leisure Provision in Stevenage for Older People. Her findings included:

- That there were a wide range of activities across the town at different venues including the Leisure Centre, the Golf Course, Swimming Pool, community centres, social clubs and gyms;
- That the Gordon Craig was a popular venue, reasonably priced with age concessions although there have been issues with the sound in the theatre;
- That walking was a favourite leisure pursuit with the over 50's. The Leisure 50 Walking Group was free to join and organised walks of varying lengths;

The Chair circulated her observations following a number of site visits and a number of potential recommendations were suggested regarding accessibility issues including:

- Possible subsidies for residents for activities such as sailing or the climbing wall at Fairlands Valley park (FVP);
- Apprenticeships to be extended eg. Saturday positions for young people;
- The possibility of funding via a grant system weight loss referrals which some patients are required to pay for making the referrals not cost effective;
- The development of packages in conjunction with the café, to attract families around some of the activities in FVP;
- Clearer advertising around the cycle hub;
- A review of both the parking provision and the toilet/changing room provision at the aquapark.

In addition to these issues, the Chair raised the issue as a possible recommendation around a plus one offer and providing links from the Council's website to local clubs and in particular free events.

Councillor Callaghan agreed to provide a written report on her findings to the next meeting of the Committee.

John O' Callaghan from Herts Sports Partnership commended the Council as leading in the area of sport and leisure provision in the County and for the level of engagement the Council maintained with the Sports Partnership.

He advised that there was now evidence to prove the links between participation in sport and leisure and the improvement in educational attainment and reduction in levels of school truancy.

John also advised Members that the Sports Partnership was working on an activity finder as part of their website which should go live before the end of the year.

The Leisure Services Manager advised that the Council was continuously looking at opportunities for change and adapting the sports and leisure offer to meet needs.

Councillor John Mead acknowledged that financial difficulty was the biggest barrier to participation in sports and leisure activities.

In response to a question about the provision of football pitches around the town, it was agreed that there was a need for additional 3G pitches. The Leisure Services Manager advised that the 3G pitch at the Valley was a good facility but had limited community use. Two potential sites at Chells Pavillion and at Ridlins Playing Fields were being considered as additional sites.

In relation to a question about basketball hoops, officers agreed to look into the costs of installation within parks and report back.

The take-up of sport by women and girls was discussed. It was noted that both the Park Run and membership of local running clubs had a high percentage of women participants.

The Chair of the Youth Council spoke about the activities and leisure provision which representatives from the Youth Council would like including equipment/areas in parks for older children, activities in parks including local bands and youth clubs to go to with friends.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Scrutiny Officer include the feedback given at the meeting including the recommendations raised by the Chair regarding accessibility issues, in the Scrutiny review report;
2. That any further written research or reports be submitted to the Scrutiny Officer prior to the next meeting;
3. That the Leisure Services Manager be asked to provide information relating to the cost of the installation of basketball hoops in parks;
4. That John O' Callaghan and Jen Jeffries be thanked for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

4 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

5 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.
2. That having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II, it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

6 **PART II MINUTES - TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part II Minutes of the Community Select Committee meeting held on 17 September 2019 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

7 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR

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Community Select Committee – Review of Sports and Leisure provision in Stevenage - Draft recommendations

Accessibility to sports & leisure opportunities linked to health benefits

1. Opportunities be offered on a subsidised basis - where residents could apply for a subsidy to take advantage of one of the services, for example sailing or the climbing wall.
2. The Healthy hub is recognised as an innovative strategy. There is an issue facing accessibility however. Patients referred to the hub for weight loss are required to pay for the service. As there is a strong connection between poor diet and poverty, the area needs to be considered. Members are aware of cases where residents have been referred to the hub for weight loss services but after attending an initial appointment and being made aware of the cost, have not returned. Officers in discussion with the Executive Portfolio Holder to consider the possibility of funding via a grant system (perhaps sponsored by local businesses – or social prescribing from public health funds).
3. The parking provision for the Aqua Park needs to be reviewed.
4. Aqua Park toilet/changing room provision needs to be improved.
5. Stevenage Golf Centre - That the offer to attract local women to play golf at Stevenage Golf Centre be looked at, including better changing facilities. In addition, offers to attract more young people also be considered.
6. Opportunities for apprenticeships could be extended further - as Saturday positions for young people for example at the sailing centre or swimming pool.

Marketing opportunities and use of the website

1. Officers should consider offering a plus one offer to encourage multiple uses of SLL sites
2. Links should be provided from the Council's website to local sporting clubs and activities in particular free events in order to promote various forms of physical activity and mental wellbeing.
3. The sailing centre operators to liaise with the SBC communications team regarding adding the cost of boat hire and courses on the SBC web site as well as video links with publicity material. In addition the Council should launch a campaign to raise the profile of activities at the Sailing Centre and to address the misconception that sailing was an elitist activity.
4. Marketing of the conference centre at the golf course amongst staff on the intranet should be pursued to make staff aware of the function rooms for

social occasions which could enhance the income that could be reinvested into the facilities and offer.

5. Advertising boards should be erected in prominent places around the Fairlands Valley Park and Sailing Centre
6. The cycle hub needs to provide clearer advertising of its services on the exterior of the building along with opening times.

Infrastructure improvements

1. At Fairlands Valley Park the high ropes could develop packages to attract family events by providing some facility for sitting down around the area to enjoy refreshments that could be included in the package in conjunction with the cafe.
2. There is a shortage of accessible 3G football pitches in Stevenage. Two potential sites at Chells Pavillion and at Ridlins Playing Fields were being considered as additional sites, the review supports the case for these sites to provide more community use of informal sports use including small sided football.
3. Following surveys and input from the Youth Council, young people have asked for more equipment/areas in parks for older children, as well as more activities in parks including local bands and youth clubs to go to with friends.
4. Basketball was promoted as an activity that is popular with young people and was accessible to many with only the need for a basketball once the infrastructure was in place. Officer to consider further sites in parks to provide these facilities and as well as funding via planning gain sources and parks maintenance, Members could be encouraged to work together using their LCBs funds for additional informal basketball hoops and hard standings around Stevenage.
5. If funding can be sourced, officers look at improving the tennis courts at King George V Playing Fields which are in a state of disrepair

Liaison between SBC and SLL

1. Cleaning and litter picking at Fairlands Valley Park including the lakes and the aqua splash park needs to improve as, at the time of the Member site visit, this was being cited as a problem “grey area” between SLL and SBC Environmental Services regarding who should do what and how often at peak times in the summer.
2. Officers discuss with the current Café operator at Fairlands Valley Park the introduction of some healthy food options on the menu to provide choice for those who would like to purchase a healthy option.

3. That SLL enhance their current booking systems to better capture demographics data to see where customers are coming from and how and where any future public health campaigns could target resources.

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