

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 3 July 2019

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

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

In Attendance: Ryan Ansell (Community Sports and Leisure Development Officer) and Rob Gregory (Assistant Director - Communities & Neighbourhoods)

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm

Time: End Time: 7.35pm

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

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr L Harrington.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **MINUTES - 4 JUNE 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that Minutes of the Community Select Committee meeting held on 4 June 2019 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

3 **SPORTS AND LEISURE ACROSS THE TOWN**

The Community Sports and Leisure Development Officer introduced his presentation and informed the Committee that Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) managed a number of sports centres in Stevenage on behalf of the Council. The presentation covered the following:

- Leisure Providers
- Community Sports Network
- Sports Clubs
- Outdoor Facilities/Activities
- Leisure 50
- School Sports
- Projects & Events

The Committee raised the following issues:

- There was scope to increase the offer at Fairlands Valley Centre to include a themed area for children and adult parties and treetop, nets and zip wire activities

- Information on activities, available times and costs should be available at the site of the boat house
- The sailing centre operators should liaise with the SBC communications team regarding adding to the Council website course costs, boat hire costs and arrangements and more sailing centre publicity material (including videos)
- 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
- Providing links to private sports and leisure operators via the Council website
- The tennis courts at the King George V Playing Fields were in a state of disrepair
- There was good attendance at the Park run events

The Assistant Director (Communities & Neighbourhoods) informed Members that the family changing village was now the industry standard for changing rooms. Members were advised that site managers would be available to answer questions during planned site visits to Stevenage sports and leisure facilities. An innovation group involving SBC and SLL had been set up to explore ways of boosting attendance at sports and leisure facilities in Stevenage. The Assistant Director (Communities & Neighbourhoods) acknowledged that a pay and play arrangement would be less restrictive and less costly than the sailing courses currently on offer at the Fairlands Valley Park and Sailing Centre. No adverse reports had been received following a series of water quality tests at the main lake at Fairlands Valley in the last two years. Members were informed that new sports and leisure providers would be operating in Stevenage as part of the regeneration programme.

The Community Sports and Leisure Development Officer responded to Members' questions. It was stated that there was one set of the specialist equipment (Anti-Gravity Treadmill and Functional electrical stimulation Bike) available to all SLL exercise referral members to help with a range of medical conditions including Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's and stroke rehabilitation. Members were informed that the family changing village was an open changing area with individual cubicles. This eliminated the requirement to lock down large areas for cleaning or maintenance. It was confirmed that schools and evening clubs used facilities at the swimming centre. The Community Sports and Leisure Development Officer stated that the mobile vertical 6 metre climbing wall was available for use at Fairlands Valley Park and Sailing Centre, King George V Playing Fields (Stevenage Day) and other events around the town. User numbers for the climbing wall were below expectations. It was noted that Marriotts Sports Centre had an open membership scheme. Marriotts Sports Centre was funded primarily via its operations as a community interest company. In general, there was good coverage of junior football activities in Stevenage. The Council did not monitor the usage of green gyms. However, this would change if the Council acquired the latest green gym models that could be linked to mobile phone applications. The Committee was informed that Stevenage Sporting Futures (school sports) programme was funded by Stevenage Borough Council and other external partners. Members were notified that parents were invited to final week events of the Go 2 Project. The Community Sports and Leisure Development Officer highlighted other project and events including Hertfordshire Year of Physical Activity (2018), Stevenage Cycling Festival, Stevenage Walking Festival, Sport in the Park, Herts Big Hit Project and Satellite

Clubs. Attendance statistics and user feedback had been used to review the Hertfordshire Year of Physical Activity (2018). It was confirmed that there was a bike hire and maintenance service at the Cycle Hub. Members were informed that the Council operated a number play centres that provided free, adult supervised, open access play opportunities for children aged between 5 and 14 years. There were also a number of private summer camp operators that catered for a wider age range. Stevenage Football Club Academy recruited young people for under-9 to under-18 teams via a range of methods including scouting, trials and holiday clubs. The Academy offered programmes such as football coaching for women and young girls. It was reported that there was a mix of private and Council-owned tennis facilities in Stevenage.

The Committee commended the Community Sports and Leisure Development Officer (a former SBC apprentice) for the informative presentation.

With regard to the sports and leisure review, the Chair advised Members to seek relevant case studies from residents. Some Members stated that due to work commitments, they were available for site visits after 1800hrs during work days. At least one Member expressed an interest in conducting site visits on Saturdays. One Member indicated that she was not available for site visits between 17 August and 31 August 2019.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the update be noted
2. That the revised Provision of Sports & Leisure Opportunities Scoping Document be adopted
3. That the references to “Theresa Callaghan” and “Lou Rossati” in the scoping document be amended to “Teresa Callaghan” and “Lorraine Rossati” respectively
4. That the Assistant Director (Communities & Neighbourhoods) facilitates the Committee’s visits to sports and leisure facilities in Stevenage
5. That the Assistant Director (Communities & Neighbourhoods) liaises with Stevenage Leisure Limited regarding the provision of attendance statistics, membership figures, demographic breakdown of sports and leisure facility users
6. That the Scrutiny Officer provides a provisional timetable for visits to Stevenage sports and leisure facilities
7. That the Scrutiny Officer provides a sports and leisure questionnaire template for use by Members at their surgeries

4 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

5 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

6 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR