

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

14th July 2005

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Richards (Vice-Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Carroll, Dunn, Mulgrew, Stone and Whyman M.B.E.

Conservative Group

Councillors Harrison, Hood, Mrs Littlejohn and Mrs Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Shaw).

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Walton.

(Richard Benstead was in attendance at the meeting. He was shadowing the Chief Executive as part of his political studies at Durham University).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Southern (Chair) and Councillor Wilkins (Labour Group) and Councillor Shaw (Conservative Group).

HCS/25. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th June 2005 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

HCS/26. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND REPORTS**

Councillor Dunn referred to the playing field at Midway which had an obstructive brook and hedge within its curtilage. He asked whether the hedge could be grouted and the brook culverted to create one continuous playing surface. It was agreed that a costing exercise for this work would be undertaken and reported to Councillor Dunn accordingly.

HCS/27. **WINNING TEAMS - DERBYSHIRE YOUTH GAMES**

It was reported that 16 teams entered the Derbyshire Youth Games from South Derbyshire and two events were won, these being girls cricket and girls football. South Derbyshire also won a number of second and third places in the games. Members of the two winning teams were present and were all congratulated individually by the Chair of the Committee. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Pam Baskerville, the Council's Sports Development Officer, for all her hard work for this event.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**HCS/28. JUNIOR NEEDS SURVEY**

The Committee received a detailed presentation on the outcome of the Junior Needs Survey. The Committee was advised that a recommendation arising from the Youth Needs Survey of 2005 was to complete a survey for children aged 7-13 years old. The findings of the survey were to be used to underpin the further implementation of the Youth Engagement Through Sport Project across South Derbyshire and influence the work of the Council's own Leisure and Community Development Team.

It was reported that 1010 formal questionnaires were completed by 7-13 year old pupils from the District's four secondary schools plus nine primary/junior schools. The majority of questionnaires were completed during school hours under the supervision of a class teacher but some questionnaires were completed under the supervision of parents/guardians. 1700 questionnaires were distributed to 13 schools in total and the return rate was 59%. The findings of the survey were circulated in a separate document entitled the Junior Needs Survey for 2005. These findings would be used to develop a Junior Needs Action Plan which would then be utilised by partner agencies to deliver their services to children and young people. The Action Plan would be particularly useful in the further development of the Youth Engagement Through Sport Project. This project currently worked with a number of agencies in South Derbyshire to deliver a variety of sports, arts, music, performance activities and youth information. The Project would further develop the Council's holiday play scheme service so that more opportunities could be provided during the summer holidays but also that provision was provided throughout the year at after-school time and other school holidays.

Councillor Whyman asked whether the urban core had been targeted and was advised that the urban core had not been targeted but had generated a higher rate of response. Councillor Whyman stated that he was encouraged that young people read books and that they would like activities to be school based. He asked that the Council translate this data into action. The Council's Youth Engagement Through Sport Officer referred to the mobile skate park which had been purchased last year and was being used frequently. The Community and Leisure Development Manager advised that the school holiday programme currently running was far better than that of previous years. Councillor Hood referred to the high response rate received from Hilton and the associated demand for further provision. Councillor Mrs Walton congratulated officers on the work undertaken on this survey. She referred to the youth needs survey undertaken last year and the Village Plan which had been produced for Hilton and had helped to generate funding for the area. She stated that there was a need to concentrate on activities which were currently being spoilt by use of drugs and the problem of anti-social behaviour. Councillor Mrs Wheeler referred to the excellent use of the mobile skate park but stated that two parishes within her ward had not been able to find a tarmaced area big enough to accommodate it. She asked whether a smaller version of the skate park was available to be used at Repton and Newton Solney. The Council's Youth Engagement Through Sport Officer advised that he was in discussions with Repton and Newton Solney and had advised them that the Council's mobile skate park could be reduced in size and therefore accommodated at these villages.

Councillor Wheeler referred to Community Wardens being needed to tackle the problem of drugs and anti-social behaviour. She stated that the safety of children should be included in the recommendations arising out of the report and was reminded of the Child Protection Policy in place and effective for all of the work undertaken by the Council.

Councillor Harrison queried whether children aged 11-13 who attended Chellaston School had been contacted and was advised that the children at Chellaston School had been consulted as part of the Youth Needs Survey undertaken the previous year. Councillor Mulgrew advised that he was disappointed that the Extreme sports bus was not visiting Midway in the summer and suggested that the mobile skate park could be situated on the car park at The Knoll, Midway.

RESOLVED:-

That the findings of the survey be accepted by the Committee and the recommendations (contained within the Youth Needs Survey report) that will be used to deliver the Youth Engagement Through Sport Project and Leisure and Community Development Service Plan be approved.

HCS/29. **SPORTS PAVILION - NEWHALL PARK**

The Committee was advised that there were two pavilions at Newhall Park. One was the football changing room which was used on a regular basis. The other was a sports pavilion which was intended to service the bowling green and multi-use games area. Over recent years a number of initiatives have been undertaken to try and encourage use of the sports pavilion. At one stage, it was licensed to the Derbyshire County Council Youth Service as a drop-in centre. More recently, the Friends of Newhall Park had taken a license out on the facility to try and encourage community use of the building. The Police also considered it for their neighbourhood office before opting for their current site at Main Street, Newhall.

It was reported that unfortunately, none of the above initiatives had proved sustainable and the facility was currently unused and generally an eyesore. There was also little prospect of the building being utilised in the near future. The building tended to be a gathering point of an evening and from a community safety prospective concealed people and obscured the views across the park from the adjacent highway.

It was reported that in April of this year, the Fire Brigade were called to a fire inside the pavilion that had been caused by lit paper being forced through a vent. The obvious structural damage was repairable and would cost in the region of £1,000 to reinstate. There was, however, smoke damage which would be more expensive to rectify. Whilst it was likely that some of the expenses could be reclaimed via insurance, because of the lack of use for the building and the community safety issues, it was recommended that the building be demolished and the site cleared. The Friends of Newhall Park had no objections to this course of action.

RESOLVED:-

That approval be given to demolish the Sports Pavilion at Newhall Park.

HCS/30. **BRETBY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Bretby Crematorium Joint Committee Meeting held on 1st December 2004 be received.

(Arising out of the above report, Councillor Wheeler referred to some £525,000 needed for new filters at the Bretby Crematorium and was advised by Councillor Whyman that the Council would need to examine a business plan to address this situation but that this was not the subject of a report for this particular meeting.)

HCS/31. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2005 were received.

IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO FOOTBALL PITCH - OVERSETTS ROAD, NEWHALL (Paragraph 8)

The Committee agreed to appoint a contractor to carry out pitch improvement works at Oversetts Road Recreation Ground, Newhall.

PROGRESS TOWARDS FASTER DELIVERY OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (Paragraph 9)

The Committee agreed a course of action intended to enable faster delivery of Disabled Facility Grants.

K. J. RICHARDS

CHAIR

Page 4 of 4