

REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	9th October 2014	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community and Planning	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Director of Community and Planning Stuart Batchelor Ext: 5820	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Grove Hall Extreme Zone Project	REF: SB
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the submission of the Sport England Improvement Fund Application for the refurbishment and enhancement of the Grove Hall and Green Bank Leisure Centre, subject to Finance and Management Committee approving the financial package.
- 1.2 To recommend to the Finance and management Committee that they approve the funding proposal for the project.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update Members on the progress made on the project to redevelop and refurbish the Grove Hall and refurbish significant parts of the Green Bank Leisure Centre.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In March 2014 Sport England announced that their Improvement Fund Programme would be prioritized towards capital projects increasing participation by 14 – 25 year olds as this age group has relatively low levels of participation in sport and physical activity. The available funding was announced as being for grants between £150,000 and £500,000 with partnership funding of 25%. In view of the continuing need to refurbish and upgrade the aging Green Bank Leisure Centre and the principle agreed by this Committee on 19th April, 2012 that when considering the 'Sports Facility Strategy Framework' that 'Indoor extreme sports facilities to be planned into major developments – i.e. indoor multi sports facilities to include space for extreme sports such as climbing, roller and cycling activity', then an Expression of Interest (EOI) Application was submitted as a speculative bid. The EOI was mainly based around the conversion of the Grove Hall into an 'Extreme Zone' providing skate boarding, bmx, bouldering and climbing activities, plus the enhancement of Swadlincote Town Hall for dance, the further renovation of Green Bank Leisure Centre and lastly the potential provision of outdoor facilities in the urban parks.

- 3.2 The 'EOI' was successful and Sport England has invited the Council to submit a full application. Since that point various plans and proposals have been considered but the availability of partnership funding and the practicality of delivering a completed project within Sport England's timeframe has resulted in the following proposal.

Proposal

- 3.3 The project is to refurbish and redevelop the Grove Hall which is adjacent to Green Bank Leisure Centre along with the refurbishment of areas of Green Bank Leisure Centre and provision of skateboard facilities in the community. The main part of the project will be the works on the Grove Hal. This facility is a 30 year old 3 badminton court (limited roof height) hall which is limited in its use for sport and physical activity. The hall needs significant refurbishment to make it suitable and consultation has identified a desire to create an 'Extreme sports and Dance Zone' which will include a state of the art 20 station indoor climbing area, young people's chill zone and a dedicated dance and fitness class hall. The aim being to significantly increase participation by young people in general and in particular girls and women plus promote family participation across the whole Centre.
- 3.4 The conversion will result in the loss of two squash courts. Whilst this is an unfortunate consequence the demand for squash has seen a decline over recent years. The District currently has 9 squash courts which is more than any other Derbyshire authority including Derby with the average Derbyshire provision being one court for every 31,000 people. The South Derbyshire provision currently is one court per 8,333 people and the removal of two courts will still show provision of a court per 10,714 people. On this basis it would seem entirely appropriate to use the squash court space for an activity which will generate significant use by predominantly young people.
- 3.5 The project would also give the opportunity for the areas of the Centre which still require refurbishment to be accommodated. The Swimming Pool Hall would be enhanced, the main sports hall floor replaced and a cycling studio would be created in the old sauna. These elements would virtually complete the transformation of an ageing and tired venue into a modern vibrant Centre which would be the centre piece of the Councils leisure offer to its growing community.
- 3.6 It is also planned to provide a skate park facility in the community with financial support for a project in an urban park. This will complement the recent refurbishment of the Woodhouse Sk8 Park and provide for the outdoor needs of young people in the urban core.

Need and Demand

- 3.7 The project aims to help provide a new facility for young people and families in South Derbyshire to help increase opportunities for for participation in alternative sports. This project has been developed following discussions with a number of key partners including Active Nation, South Derbyshire Sport, local Schools, youth groups and individual community members. The popularity of indoor

climbing has increased significantly over the last 20 years and today many people (often based in the major cities) climb only on indoor climbing walls. Indoor climbing is popular across the age groups but particularly amongst younger people and students. (British Mountaineering Club Strategic Plan 2013-2017). With 25% of young people either wishing to or actively participating in Extreme sports it is the fastest growing sport not only in the UK but in the world.

- 3.8 The proportion of the population who are within the 16- 19 age bracket has risen from 5.6% in 2007 to 11.5% in 2013. Therefore South Derbyshire along with other providers needs to consider its leisure and service provision to cater for this increase. The interest shown by those who were surveyed to visit on a regularly basis is very positive (65% said they would visit it weekly). There has also been a wide range of activities identified through the consultation which can be delivered as part of this project.
- 3.9 The new facility will address the need for new facilities which suit the young people within South Derbyshire and will provide a supervised approach which is lacking in the park environment. The Youth Needs Survey (targeting 13-19 year olds) completed by South Derbyshire District Council found that 38.6% of respondents of over 1000 surveys returned said they would like to undertake outdoor based and adventurous activities.
- 3.10 The project also provides for new facilities for Street Dance targeted at young women. A young peoples dance project was initiated 10 years ago and whilst popular will greatly benefit from a dedicated facility.
- 3.11 The Youth Needs Survey identified that whilst there appeared to be lots of activities and opportunities for this age group there were limited opportunities for youths. It also identified that individuals had a concern for personal safety and of anti-social behavior which sometimes limited participation. The proposed facilities and their location will help reduce these concerns.
- 3.12 In terms of consultation with potential user groups this has included:

Shout Out- the Young Peoples Disability Group (up to 19 years) conducted consultation which showed the need for outdoor and adventurous activities and a weekly multi-sport club. With almost 130 members this gives a solid case for delivering specific activities for disabled people.
- 3.13 The long term implications of this project are particularly important. Whilst progress has been made on extending the life of the Centre there are large costing items that will require significant investment from the Council in future years. This project, with the financial support of other partners enables those works to be completed now and help extend the life of the Centre well beyond the 10 years that were being forecast previously.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The proposal is estimated as costing £900,000 towards which the Sport England application will be for £500,000. The remaining partnership funding will be provided from a number of sources that are being examined and will form the basis of a report to Finance and Management Committee subject to the approval of this Committee. The balance will be funded from a combination of borrowing (on a prudential basis subject to the affordability of revenue streams repaying borrowing costs) increased income and existing Partnership funds.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The programme of developments linked to the 2012 Olympic Legacy links with the Councils Corporate priorities and the key action within the 'Promoting Healthy Facilities and Lifestyles' objective and the 'promotion of cultural events' in the 'Lifestyle Choice' priority. The project would also contribute to supporting the 'Safer Neighbourhoods' objective of the 'Safe and Secure' priority in that it would provide significant opportunities for youth engagement

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The 2012 London Olympics gave the community of South Derbyshire an ideal opportunity to become more physically active, support emerging local talent and benefit from external investment. This proposed programme will continue the success of 2012 and prove to have a lasting impact on the District.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 As promised by the Council the legacy of the 2012 London Olympics for South Derbyshire will be increased physical activity levels and opportunities for continued involvement in sport. The proposed programme of facility development is fulfilling that promise.