

## Annexe A

### **Situation report, development of new facilities – Etwall Leisure Centre**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

The report explores the actions that have taken place over the past 12 months and identifies important issues for discussion.

#### **2. Forward Strategy Meeting**

This took place in February and was an opportunity to get all 'stakeholders' together to see if there were options available that would result in the delivery of the project. There was general re-affirmation that all stakeholders were committed to the project as it currently existed i.e. new leisure centre comprising 4 court sports hall, new swimming pool, health & fitness provision and floodlit all-weather training pitch.

The main outcome from the meeting was a commitment to get together a meeting of the 'great & the good' to decide just how extensive support for the project was. While it is understood that a meeting was arranged by the School that covered a number of areas the feed-back received on the issue of sports facility provision was less than encouraging.

#### **3. Community Group – Representation on the JMC**

The decision was taken during the year to co-opt representatives of the Community Group on to the JMC. There were a number of reasons for this, with the main one being to try and keep the Community Group informed of all developments relating to the Centre. Another was to use the JMC as the main vehicle for the future development of the project. Previously, most decisions had taken place outside the JMC, mainly through ad hoc meetings of the key stakeholders.

#### **4. Meeting with Paul Chambers – Derbyshire Leisure Facilities Officer.**

Main purpose of this meeting was to see whether any realistic options were available to make the project 'happen' in the near future.

Discussed future of Lottery and other initiatives that could provide us with some hope for optimism. Disappointing to say that nothing at present is on the horizon.

Discussed the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative which is a Private Funding Initiative (PFI) scheme that seeks to encourage major private finance into the redevelopment of schools, including the provision of substantially enhanced leisure facilities.

The first tranche of schools to be put forward for this scheme from Derbyshire were submitted in October 2003. All of these schools were located in the north of the County. These are only expressions of interest and where 'new' schools will be built, will be decided by the DfES. Derbyshire were scheduled to submit an expression of interest for all its other secondary school sites in December 03. Realistically, as with the Lottery, we have to accept that South Derbyshire and wards within South Derbyshire are not priority areas.

While the School will obviously be in the best position to know where they are in terms of priority an initial view is that if 'Building Schools for the Future' is a success it could be 10 years before John Port School was included.

#### **5. Existing Facilities**

The past 12 months has seen good and essential improvements made to the existing facilities, particularly the work to the changing rooms and the replacement of the coal fired boilers. One of the main issues the JMC will have to address in the coming months is ensuring that the facilities meet the requirements of the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act. A recent audit has identified work to the value of £82,800 is required to the Squash Courts (currently SDDC's responsibility) and £77,800 to the Swimming Pool (JMC responsibility). A report on this subject is also included on the agenda for January's meeting of the JMC.

## 6. Issues.

- ❖ There are no obvious current funding opportunities available to fund what by now is likely to be a project in the region of £5m.
- ❖ If at all, 'Building Schools for the Future' is unlikely to be relevant until 2010 and beyond.
- ❖ We have talked in the past of Section 106 monies being available to 'kick start' the project. But given the funding gap even a £1m would not really serve this purpose because of the absence of other 'partnership funding' opportunities.
- ❖ With DCC's money, possible Section 106 monies & possible private finance should we begin discussions on a lesser scheme.
- ❖ Given that the safeguarding of the Swimming Pool has always been a priority of the Community Group would they like to see the money they have raised spent now on improvements to the current facility?