

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

26th April 2004

PRESENT:-

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Labour Group

Councillor Lauro (Chair) and Councillors Pabla and Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillors Mrs. Hood and Lemmon.

Officers

J. Bellm, P. Spencer, A. Lakin and C. Mason.

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governor

C. Clemens (Vice-Chair) (from 5.20 p.m.)

Officer

G. Cole and P. Kennerdell.

Representatives of Derbyshire County Council

Councillors Mrs. Littlejohn and Routledge.

EL/25. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from I. Reid, K. Stackhouse and S. Wright (South Derbyshire District Council), M. A. Crane and F. Briggs (Etwall John Port School), Mrs. Bussell and Mrs. Wedgebury (Community Group Representatives).

G. Cole reported that representatives from Etwall John Port School were absent as they were attending the funeral of a member of the School staff.

EL/26. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th January 2004 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

EL/27. **MATTERS ARISING**

With reference to Minute No. EL/21, A. Lakin circulated a paper promoting "Bike Week", taking place from 12th to 20th June 2004. He pointed out that contrary to the information given at the last Meeting, which stated that a half price swim would be offered to customers who arrived by bicycle, the advertisement actually detailed a free swim. The Committee was in agreement that a free swim was acceptable and commented that such an offer might even result in a future increase in custom. Mr. Cole asked whether the security of the bicycles had been considered and agreed to discuss this matter with Mr. Lakin outside of the Meeting. The Chair commented on the national decline in swimming and referred to sponsored events which had taken place in the locality over the Easter holidays and had increased swimming attendance. A. Lakin commented

that he was aware of these events but the Leisure Centre had not participated due to other commitments. He also reported to the Committee that since the last Meeting the b-line card scheme had been implemented at the Centre.

Further to Minute No. EL/22, C. Mason reported that South Derbyshire District Council's interpretation of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 differed from that of Derbyshire County Council. The County Council deemed it acceptable for a strategy to be in place for essential works by October 2004. The Officer felt that there had been ample time to review requirements and that essential works should be completed by this deadline. Councillor Shepherd requested clarification of the cost implications of meeting the requirements, namely whether the costs would be greater or lesser than originally quoted. Councillor Lemmon commented that consideration should be given to any possible future plans for the Centre before any alterations were undertaken to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

With reference to Minute No. EL/23, there was a brief discussion about the John Port School's successful funding bid. This might provide funds for a new sports facility. Mr. Cole commented that he was not in a position to give any further details to the Committee until after a Meeting of the School Governors had taken place. He did confirm that such a facility would be available for the benefit of the community and not just for the School. He echoed a point made by Councillor Lemmon that any expenditure to comply with the Disability Act should be undertaken only in consultation with this Committee, in view of possible future developments.

With regard to projected energy cost savings, G. Cole reported that these would probably be less than the £20,000 predicted in Minute No. EL/24. This was due to the increased cost of providing gas to heat the pool. G. Cole confirmed that a competitive price was secured for gas provision, through a Derbyshire County Council purchasing agreement. He commented that the Leisure Centre's environment had been improved since the new heating system had been installed.

EL/28. **REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

Councillor Routledge advised that Derbyshire County Council's 'Gold Card' scheme was being implemented. This scheme replaced the existing 'Bus Pass' scheme for the elderly and in addition provided discounts in some shops. Councillor Routledge asked the Leisure Centre Manager to investigate whether or not the scheme could be publicised at the Centre. A. Lakin commented that reduced rates were currently available for elderly customers.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EL/29. **USAGE INFORMATION**

A report was submitted which identified public usage of the swimming pool, squash courts and tennis courts for the financial years 1999/2000 to date. A. Lakin commented on the report stating that figures were down due to the pool closure, whilst the new heating system was being installed. He then circulated a report which detailed the last three months figures. These figures showed an increase in revenue over this period but the point was made that part of this was attributed to private pool use which gave increased revenue, but meant less

hours of usage for the public. Members took the opportunity to comment on these figures and sought clarification of some details.

RESOLVED:-

That the Usage Information report be noted.

EL/30.

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.

VENDING MACHINE

The Committee agreed a way forward for the vending machine lease agreement at the Leisure Centre.

M. LAURO

CHAIR