

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

26th January 2009

PRESENT:-

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Conservative Group

Councillors Lemmon (Vice-Chairman) and Mrs. Patten.

Labour Group

Councillors Pabla and Shepherd.

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Brown.

Officers

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), S. Batchelor (Head of Leisure and Community Development), K. Stackhouse (Head of Finance and Property Services), C. Mason (Leisure Services Manager), S. Wright (Leisure Centre Manager) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services).

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governors

C. Clemens and B. Whyman, M.B.E. (Chairman).

Officers

F. Briggs and P. Kennerdell.

Representatives of Derbyshire County Council

Councillors Bambrick and Hood.

Community Group Representatives

Mrs. K. Bussell and Mrs. A. Wedgbury.

In Attendance

B. Morrow

EL/15. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th October 2008 were noted, subject to the inclusion of F. Briggs as being present.

EL/16. **MATTERS ARISING**

F. Briggs reported that further to an item on the previous Minutes, he had received further costings for the decommissioning of the existing swimming pool. The total cost was reported as £143,000. He added that the School did not have any funding to cover these costs. The Chairman responded that he felt the decommissioning costs should be shared by the three partners, and it was requested that this item be brought forward as a report to the next Meeting.

EL/17. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

B. Whyman, M.B.E. declared a prejudicial interest in Item 10, Naming the New Leisure Centre, as he was a subject of this debate.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EL/18. **USAGE AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Leisure Centre Manager, which included a breakdown of public usage of the swimming pool, squash courts and tennis courts for the financial years 2004/05 to date.

It was reported that the Swimathon 2009 would take place between 16th to 19th April 2009, and it was hoped that, with the support of the Swimathon team, over 100 swimmers would be recruited to this event. In addition, there was a “Swim the Channel Challenge”, which was a free to enter event, being run between January and May 2009. Swimmers who successfully finished the distance of 22 miles (1,416 lengths of the pool) would be presented with a certificate marking their achievements.

It was also reported that the Etwall Leisure Centre learn to swim programme had been awarded the Aquamark Premier Scheme status. Aquamark was a Quality Standard developed and assessed by the National Governing Body for Swimming in England. The learn to swim programme had been subject to external scrutiny by experts, and the Aquamark represented a recognition of high quality in swimming programme provision.

To mark the closure of the existing pool a reunion of all present and past customers, club members, supporters and present and previous staff were invited to join a celebration on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May 2009.

RESOLVED:-

That the usage information report be noted.

EL/19. **ESTABLISHING REVENUE BUDGETS FOR THE NEW FACILITY**

A report was submitted advising Members of a revenue model and draft estimates, and recommending their approval as the basis for operating the new facility.

In developing these revenue estimates, which were included as an annexe to the report, a variety of sources had been used. Further details were given on this process, and it was confirmed that the estimates produced were for a full year of operation following the expiry of the buildings defect period.

A number of key principles on which the model was based were also included within the report.

Further detail was also provided on specific issues for the new Centre, including energy and staffing costs, and income forecasts.

It was requested that the position of Derbyshire County Council be confirmed, and the Director of Community Services responded that he had met two representatives from Derbyshire County Council, who had confirmed that when the new facility was built they would withdraw from the agreement. However, they had been requested to continue with their funding until the new Leisure Centre was established. Derbyshire County Council was considering this request.

RESOLVED:-

That the revenue model and draft estimates, as identified in the report be approved as the basis for operating the new facility.

EL/20. **STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

A report was submitted advising Members that good progress was being made with capital works. However, certain strategic and operational management issues were still outstanding and required further negotiation.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the draft Head of Terms for the new facility contained within the report be approved in principle.***
- (2) That officers of both the School and the Council, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Management Committee be given authority to agree the detail of the agreement prior to resubmission to the Joint Management Committee for final approval.***
- (3) That the need to establish some form of mechanism to oversee the more day-to-day operational matters in some areas, via a smaller operational group be considered at the next Meeting of the Joint Management Committee.***
- (4) That a Special Meeting of the Joint Management Committee be held before April 2009 to consider further aspects of the strategic direction.***

EL/21. **HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SWIMMING POOLS**

A report was submitted updating Members about Health and Safety in pools for the new Corporate Manslaughter legislation. Background information was given supporting the changes to the way the current pool was staffed with lifeguards and the way lifeguards received ongoing training.

More details were given of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA), and it was confirmed that all pool owners and managers had general obligations to protect the public. The HSWA was the principal legislative provision for public safety. Additional information was given on the requirement under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, that employers must make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks employees and members of the public faced, to help decide what preventative measures needed to be taken.

Further information was given on the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007 and a basic guideline on the provision of numbers of lifeguards.

It was confirmed that constant poolside supervision by lifeguards who received regular, ongoing training and assessment, provided the best assurance of pool users' safety. Using Joint Management Committee lifeguards for all pool sessions ensured continuity of competency and level of training throughout.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the new life guarding arrangements detailed in the report for the programmed pool sessions be approved.***
- (2) That the charges to cover the cost of providing additional lifeguards be approved.***

EL/22. **NAMING THE NEW LEISURE CENTRE**

A report was submitted providing suggestions, options and background information to support the process of naming the new Leisure Centre.

C. Clemens reported that he had been asked by the Governors to propose the name of 'The Barrie Whyman Leisure Centre' in recognition of his contribution to the local area.

B. Whyman declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and withdrew from the Meeting. Councillor Lemmon assumed the role of Vice-Chairman in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs. Patten responded that she was very disappointed with the proposals and had understood that the naming of the new centre would go out for consultation with local residents.

Other Members of the Committee commented that there was the need for the name to be totally independent from the School, that it may offend other Members if it be named after one person, and that it should be named as soon as possible in order to market and promote the new facility.

A. Wedgebury remarked that the name 'Dove Valley' might cause problems as this had many connections to the swimming club at Uttoxeter. She suggested 'River Valley Leisure Centre'.

RESOLVED:-

That Members of the Etwall Leisure Centre JMC, following consultation with local residents, pass all suggestions for the new name to the Leisure Services Manager, who will provide a further report to a special Meeting, to include a maximum of 10 suggested names, including 'The Barrie Whyman Leisure Centre' and 'Dove Valley Leisure Centre'. Members of the JMC will then complete an elimination vote, to identify the preferred name.

EL/23. **ETWALL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

A report was submitted advising Members that the provision of the new leisure facility provided an excellent opportunity to develop an infrastructure for the

development of sport across the Etwall, Hilton and surrounding areas, which would ensure maximum usage and community involvement in the new centre.

It was proposed that a new sports development plan be developed with the formation of a multi-agency Sports Development Focus Group that would support the Centre Management and the JMC in achieving its business plan and the LAA target of increasing participation in sport. The initial work on developing the plan would be led by the Council's Sport and Youth Development Manager, with the assistance of a project team including the current Centre Manager, School Sport Partnership Manager, School representative, South Derbyshire Sports Club Development Officer and local community representatives.

A draft plan would be prepared and subject to community consultation before being brought back to this Committee.

RESOLVED:-

That the approach identified in the report be approved, as the appropriate way forward for development of a sporting infrastructure for the new facility and the surrounding community.

EL/24. **FREE SWIMMING OFFER**

A report was submitted, explaining the details of the Government's offer of free swimming for 60 year olds and over and 16 year olds and under, and to gain the JMC's approval for involvement in both. Further details were submitted of the scheme along with the financial implications. It was pointed out that the scheme was only funded for two years and that no decision would be made on future funding until after the Government's next comprehensive spending review. It was important that the scheme was only promoted as a two-year programme with an expectation that charges might have to be reintroduced after 2011.

Full details of financial implications were given. However, it was confirmed that any lost income would be covered by the DCMS grant.

RESOLVED:-

That the JMC's involvement in the offer of free swimming for 60 year olds and over, and 16 years old and under, be approved, and if funding allows, to also include up to 18 year olds in full time education.

EL/25. **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.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR NEW LEISURE CENTRE
(Paragraph 4)

An update was given detailing the staffing structure for the new leisure centre.

B. WHYMAN, M.B.E.

CHAIRMAN