

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO : LEISURE COMMITTEE - 11TH JANUARY 2000

SUBJECT : TEMPORARY CAMPING FOR NATIONAL CANOE RACE

FROM : HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report seeks Members' views on the provision of temporary camping facilities to enable the Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club to host a national slalom competition at Royal Leamington Spa on 8th/9th July 2000.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Numerous national canoe races are staged throughout the country during the year and the Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club members regularly travel the length and breadth of the country to participate in these.
- 2.2 The local club have now been approached to stage a national ranking slalom event on 8th/9th July 2000. This would involve a team event and practice session on Saturday 8th July and the main individual event on Sunday 9th July.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The club are actively looking at putting together a package in order for them to host this very prestigious event and if successful, it will be the first time in the club's history that they have held such an event.
- 3.2 Sponsors are actively being sought for the resources and funding which are required and the club are hopeful of meeting their targets.
- 3.3 The club have organised fun slaloms over the past two years and have attracted considerable interest from mainly local youngsters. The organisers now know that the facilities at the club and the course on the River Leam meet the required national standards.
- 3.4 However, part of the organisation for the event, is that camping and caravanning facilities for up to 20 units in close proximity to the venue are required and the club have approached the Council for assistance in providing a suitable site.

4. POSSIBLE SITES FOR TEMPORARY CAMPING

- 4.1 Camping facilities would be required from mid-day on Friday, 7th July until lunchtime on Sunday, 9th July.

- 4.2 The only two possible Council owned sites with facilities in the close proximity are Edmondscote Athletic Track and Victoria Park.
- 4.3 Edmondscote Athletic Track is a 'closed' area on which tents and caravans could be pitched and vehicles parked within close proximity to them. The pavilion would offer adequate shower, changing and toilet facilities and the canoe club would also arrange for 24 hour security of the area.
- 4.4 Victoria Park is an open area and there would be a tendency for the tents to spread out and also be easily visible to all park users. The pavilion would offer adequate toilet and shower facilities, however, security would be a little more difficult as the park is open 24 hours a day.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Having considered the alternatives, it would appear that Edmondscote Athletic Track would be the best location. If Members were to agree to this, then the tents and caravans could be sited in an area so as to minimise inconvenience to the regular track users or any proposed meeting.
- 5.2 The staging of this event would recognise Leamington as a national provider and also encourage youngsters to join the local club and take up the sport.

6. KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 No specific Key Issues, although it does encourage tourism and the building of communities.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Members are asked for their views on this temporary site and if approved to agree which is the preferred venue;
- (a) Edmondscote Athletic Track or
 - (b) Victoria Park
- 7.2 If a site were acceptable, an amount to be charged for using the facility needs to be decided. Your officers' suggestion would be £2.20 per person per night..

Pete Rourke
Sports Leisure and Community Manager

Background papers : Nil

Contact Officer : Pete Rourke
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Areas in district affected : Edmondscote, Milverton Ward
Victoria Park, Leamington Spa

