

# LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 January 2000 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ms Flanagan (Chair); Councillors Aujla, Butler, Caborn, Cockburn, Copping, Darmody, Davis, Dove, Dray, Mrs Goode, Hammon, Shilton, Short, Talbot.

Councillor Mrs Compton - Chairman of the Council

(Councillor Short substituted for Councillor Mrs Hodgetts)

## 562. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 1999, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### PART I

(Matters not the subject of powers delegated to the Committee by the Council)

## 563. SERVICE PLAN SAVINGS REVIEW 1999/2000 AND 2000/01

The Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Director and the Head of Leisure and Amenities on proposed options to rectify the shortfalls in the Service Plan savings for 1999/2000 and 2000/01 reported at the last cycle and to amend the revenue estimates accordingly.

Shortfalls in Service Plan savings of £36,200 and £93,400 were predicted in the estimates for 1999/2000 and 2000/01 respectively and a variety of ways had been looked at to address the shortfalls. The proposed amendments to budget headings and their respective leisure codes to address the shortfalls, considered to have the least adverse affect on services to the public, were identified in the appendix to the report.

**RECOMMENDED** that the proposals, detailed in the appendix to the report, aimed to meet the shortfalls in Service Plan savings of £36,200 in 1999/2000 and £93,400 in 2000/01 be approved.

## 564. MONITORING THE SPORTS AND LEISURE CONTRACT

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the monitoring and performance levels of the Sports and Leisure contract.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be noted.

## 565. ARTS STRATEGY REVIEW UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the progress of the review of the

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

Council's Art Strategy.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be noted and the consultant report to the next meeting of this committee.

### 566. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the current situation with regard to the Grounds Maintenance contract and the performance of Glendale Grounds Maintenance.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) officers continue to be supported in their attempts to secure the level of service required within the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

#### **PART II**

(Matters delegated to the Committee by the Council)

### 567. **FARMERS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS DURING 2000**

The Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team setting out plans to help establish the next stage of the development of farmers markets within Warwick district during 2000.

At a previous meeting, this Committee had agreed that a schedule should be established for markets across the district for 2000 and an income plan for farmers markets should also be agreed. In order to establish a successful circuit of farmers markets, the plan was to operate the markets on a regular basis each month throughout the year. The farmers market in Kenilworth would operate on the second Saturday of each month and the Warwick Chamber of Trade had indicated that they would support a Friday farmers market in Warwick. This would prevent confusion for customers between farmers and charter markets, and would bring additional customers to the town and increase the use of the market place.

The development of monthly farmers markets would require additional resources to be made available from Leisure with regard to the general management of those markets. It was anticipated that this would be covered by a fee that Leisure would now receive from those markets based upon the sliding scale. This would produce an additional income in the region of £4,500 based upon an average of 30 stalls per market throughout the year, £5,300 based upon 35 stalls, £9,000 based upon 40 stalls and £10,200 based upon 45 stalls.

A trial of farmers market was to be held in Clemens Street, Royal Leamington Spa on 26 February and proposals for Royal Leamington Spa would not be made until the success of the trial was known.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the monthly schedule of farmers markets for Warwick and Kenilworth, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (2) a schedule for the Royal Leamington Spa farmers market be delayed until after the

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

trial in Clemens Street had taken place on 26 February 2000;

- (3) the income proposals for Leisure and Amenities as a result of the increase in farmers markets, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (4) officers from Leisure and Amenities, in consultation with the Leisure Committee Spokespersons, be authorised to agree to a detailed schedule indicating locations and dates of farmers markets following discussions with Kenilworth and Warwick Town Councils and the review of the Clemens Street trial; and
- (5) a report be submitted to this Committee in January 2001 upon the impact of the farmers markets throughout the current year.

### **568.    MARKETING/ROYAL SPA CENTRE**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on recent marketing initiatives at the Royal Spa Centre.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and the Assistant Entertainments Manager at the centre be invited to make a presentation at the next meeting.

### **569.    ANNUAL CYCLO-CROSS RACE - KENILWORTH COMMON**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities informing them of the 1999 Boxing Day Cyclo-cross race on Kenilworth Common and seeking views on this year's proposed race.

The Kenilworth Cyclo-cross race had taken place on Kenilworth Common for 44 years and was currently the oldest continuous event of its type in the Country. Since 1974, this Council had agreed to the annual race but has requested a report to be submitted to this Committee following last year's event.

The organisers liaised with the Police and the Council prior to the event in order to try to minimise inconvenience to local residents and to ensure the proposed route did not conflict with the wishes of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The race took place and the organisers complied with all the conditions and no problems had been reported. Officers were asked to monitor the event and report back only if it was felt that there were issues which should be brought to the attention of the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to allow the Cyclo-cross race to take place on Kenilworth Common on 26 December 2000 and in future years.

### **570.    TEMPORARY CAMPING FOR NATIONAL CANOE RACE**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities 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 8/9 July 2000.

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

The Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club were actively seeking to host this prestigious canoe event and, if successful, would require camping and caravanning facilities for up to 20 units in close proximity to the venue. The Canoe Club had approached the Council for assistance in providing a suitable site.

Edmonscote athletic track was 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 hours security of the area.

### **RESOLVED** that

- (1) a temporary camping facilities be provided at Edmonscote athletic track to enable the Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club to host a national slalom competition at Royal Leamington Spa on 8/9 July 2000; and
- (2) a charge of £2.20 per person per night be made for the use of the Edmondscote athletic track facilities.

### 571. **UK ATHLETICS 8 NATIONS INTERNATIONAL AND GRAND PRIX WALKING COMPETITION**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the staging of the UK Athletics 8 Nations International and Grand Prix Walking competition at Victoria Park over an extended 1000m circuit on 23 April 2000. An approach had been received to host an international race walking event, involving at least 12 countries, at Victoria Park on Sunday 23 April 2000 from 8am to 5pm.

Many of the participants would be seeking to obtain the Olympic qualifying standard time and organisers considered that a 1000m circuit was required, meaning walkers would need to utilise part of Archery Road. The proposed route would mean no vehicles could go beyond 23 Archery Road, although pedestrian access would not be affected.

**RESOLVED** that the staging of the International and Grand Prix Walking competition at Victoria Park on 23 April 2000 be approved on a 1000m circuit and a temporary road closure be sought between 23 -41 Archery Road on 23 April 2000 to enable the race to go ahead.

### 572. **GROOVES IS IN THE PARK**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the proposed Groove is in the Park event, planned for 29 May 2000 in the Pump Room Gardens.

The day aimed to celebrate multi cultural music in the Royal Leamington Spa area, through performances, costumes and dance from people across the town. The day was being supported by UNICEF as part of its project to raise awareness of the street children in Brazil and all funds raised from the sale of tea- lights would go to UNICEF.

The Pump Rooms band stand and gardens would be used from 6pm to 9pm for performances from the different participating musicians and closed by torchlit procession out of the gardens by children.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed Groove is in the Park event, planned for 29 May 2000 in the

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

Pump Room Gardens, be supported.

### 573. **MILLENNIUM REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the successful Millennium activities held in the Pump Room Gardens on 31 December 1999.

The attractions, which included a fun fair, Punch and Judy, the Millennium Sounds and the Cubbington Silver Band and was compared by Sue Willis, proved popular, and the Royal Leamington Spa Military Youth Band marched up and down the Pump Room Gardens. No complaints had been received about any aspect of the event.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee on whether the New Year's Eve celebration should become an annual event.

### 574. **WEEKLY MARKETS - RENTS**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities and Finance on recommendations to increase the rents at the weekly market in Kenilworth, Royal Leamington Spa and Warwick.

The work on the Market Square at Warwick had been disruptive to the market, as would be the work in the New Year at Abbey End for the Kenilworth market. In order to reflect this, it was suggested that there should be no increases in the current rates until April 2000, and then both markets rent be increased to £21. The Royal Leamington Spa market had very few traders operating from the present site in Packington Place, and it was suggested that rents remained at £15. This would not have a marked effect on the income and in view of the decreasing income from this market, it was suggested that a major exercise be launched to try to find a satisfactory permanent site for the Royal Leamington Spa weekly market. This would be helped to substantially by the Old Town Regeneration exercise.

The proposed rent increases would generate £2,400 additional income for the year 2000/01.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) market rents at Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick and Kenilworth be retained at their present levels until April 2000, thereafter the rent be increased to £21 per stall holder for Warwick and Kenilworth and remain unchanged at Royal Leamington Spa; and
- (2) increases in market rents be dealt with as part of the Council's normal fees and charges procedures and increases be tied into this procedure and become effective annually in April.

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

### 575. LEAM VALLEY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE - PROPOSED WET LAND HABITAT CREATION PROJECT

(Councillor Copping declared a non-pecuniary, non-substantial interest in this item).

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on a proposed environmental enhancement scheme as part of the Leam Valley local nature reserve by creating a mosaic of wet land habitats within the flood plain of the River Leam.

The Leam Valley local nature reserve had the active support of a voluntary warden and a group of dedicated volunteers giving their time to the reserve to undertake habitat management. It was proposed to create a mosaic of wet land habitats in four hectares of woodland on the flood plain at the eastern end of the nature reserve attracting valuable wildlife and providing an educational resource for the local community. The wet land habitat creation project would involve the creation of several UK bio-diversity action plan priority habitats including reed bed and wet woodland. The habitat mosaic would be suitable for bio-diversity action plan priority species such as European otter, water vole, reed bunting and a wide range of wild fowl. The project would also include the provision of a bird hide, a first for the Warwick district.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust had a grant for 75% of £32,000 from the Heritage Lottery fund for this project, to include a feasibility study. The Environment Agency had shown its support for the project and was to fund a detailed design for the proposals. This Council was being asked to make a contribution of £5,000 to support the project. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust would also apply for land tax credit monies to support the project.

**RESOLVED** that it be considered that there was merit in looking at proposals to create an environmental enhancement scheme as part of the Leam Valley local nature reserve and it be agreed that a public consultation exercise be held on the proposals and a report be submitted to this Committee on the outcome of the public consultation exercise.

### 576. CULTURAL GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities and Head of Finance on applications for grant aid from Brass 2000, a joint application from Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and Leamington Spa Bach Choir, Leamington Spa Competitive Festival, Leamington Chamber Orchestra and Radford Road Players.

The report set out the policy adopted by the Committee for considering grant requests which was based on financial information on the organisations and how the services provided by the organisations fitted the Council's art strategy.

**RESOLVED** that the following grants be awarded:-

- (1) £250 to Brass 2000;
- (2) £500 jointly to Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and Leamington Spa Bach Choir;
- (3) no grant be awarded to this year's Leamington Spa Competitive Festival;

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

- (4) £200 to Leamington Chamber Orchestra; and
- (5) £250 to Radford Road Players.

### **577. ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICY**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the revised and updated acquisition and disposal policy for the Art Gallery and Museum at the Royal Pump Rooms.

The Council's acquisition and disposal policy was being updated under the requirements of the museum registration scheme operated by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. This scheme required museums to review their acquisition and disposal policy at least every five years.

The proposed policy now included a new emphasis on acquiring items with a medical theme, reflecting the significance of the medical treatments carried out at the Royal Pump Rooms in the past. This would also able links to be made with the creative health centres planned for Old Town and the proposed cultural quarter.

The revised policy also reflected the changes in the type of work produced by temporary artists and craft people, including that produced by artists within Warwick District, in the last five years.

**RESOLVED** that the revised acquisition and disposal policy be approved.

### **578. GREATER WARWICKSHIRE ACTIVE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the progress to date regarding the Greater Warwickshire Active Sports Partnership.

A new Sports Council initiative, aimed at developing skills through greater access to coaching opportunities, was launched last year. This has resulted in the formation of the Greater Warwickshire Partnership which involved the five districts of Warwickshire plus Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

The partnership had recently appointed Mick Baikie to the post of Active Sports Manager. His initial duties would be to agree with the partners and the national governing bodies the priorities for the nine sports as they are phased in over the next two years, in order to release funding from the Lottery for the district.

**RESOLVED** that the current situation regarding the active sports programme be noted.

### **579. SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET FUNDING BID - SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities seeking approval to submit a bid to the Single Regeneration Budget (Round 5) for the appointment of a full time Sports Development Officer for Leamington Old Town.

The project bid to be submitted to the Regenesi Board requests funding for a full time officer to be appointed on

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

a three year contract with an aim to develop a wider range of local sport development activities for people of all areas in the SRB target area, in partnership with key agencies. The activities would aim to develop sustainability, reduce crime, improve health and provide employment opportunities for local residents. The post would have particular emphasis on providing training opportunities for adults, involvement in major Sport England and national lead initiatives, working with target groups and attaining external funding for local projects.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the proposed bid for the creation of a full-time Sports Development Officer on a three year contract be supported; and
- (2) the Head of Leisure and Amenities be given delegated authority in conjunction with Leisure Committee Spokespersons, to adjust the project bid, excluding any additional resources from this Council.

### **580. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

The Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Director and Head of Leisure and Amenities suggesting additional performance indicators to be used to measure the performance of the Leisure and Amenities Business Unit.

As a result of the Best Value initiative it would be necessary to supply information for both national performance indicators and to improve on locally set indicators. It was therefore considered appropriate to look at existing performance indicators to see if they could be made more challenging and measurable. The report set out the additional performance indicators that would be compiled for the services provided by the unit.

**RESOLVED** that the revised performance indicators, as set out in the report, be approved.

### **581. CEMETERY EXTENSION - ALLOTMENT GARDENS, OAKS ROAD, KENILWORTH**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities updating it on the approved works at Oaks Road Cemetery, as part of the Cemetery extension.

At a previous meeting, this Committee agreed to extend Kenilworth Cemetery on to land set aside for an extension but was currently being used for allotment gardens and leased to Kenilworth Town Council. The allotment holders had been given 12 months notice to vacate the site and the leases would be terminated once this had expired.

A meeting had been held with allotment holders and, although they accepted that the allotment site had always been allocated for a cemetery extension, there was concern over their ability to re-site their plots in other locations. It was anticipated that the majority of allotment holders would move to the Gypsy Lane allotment site. Discussions were also held as to whether the Council would be prepared to help relocate the allotments in terms of providing weed control on existing plots at Gypsy Lane and also cultivating the plots which would give allotment holders a better start to their new site.



## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) if necessary, the Council would assist in the preparation of allotment plots for those tenants who relocate from Oaks Road Cemetery to Gypsy Lane.

### **582. SHRUBLAND RECREATION GROUND (FORDS FIELD)**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the outcome of public consultation exercise on Shrubland Recreation ground.

Two public design workshops were held last year to consult the local community around the Shrubland Recreation ground on their future wishes and aspirations for the area. The consultation exercises had identified a number of changes to the area and funding existed from the Old Town Working Party Environmental Improvement budget for the works. SRB funding was also available for the work.

**RESOLVED** that the improvement works proposed for Shrubland Recreation ground, as detailed in the report, be approved.

### **583. PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **584. JEPHSON GARDENS AWARD - APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities seeking approval to the acceptance of four consultants as part of the design team to implement the lottery award.

As part of the Heritage Lottery award, the Council was seeking to employ consultants to implement the work. The report detailed the tenders received for Architectural Consultants, Structural Engineers, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and Quantity Surveyors.

The report detailed the evaluation process undertaken by the Leisure Committee Spokespersons and officers from Property, Planning and Leisure and Amenities and the consultants Plincke Landscape.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) H D Greenway be appointed Mechanical and Electrical Engineers at a cost of

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

£15,750;

- (2) B G Associates be appointed Quantity Surveyors at a cost of £15,900;
- (3) Taylor Boyd and Hancock be appointed Structural Engineers at a cost of £18,800;  
and
- (4) Architecture plb be appointed Architectural Consultants at a cost of £58,000.

(The meeting ended at 7.10 p.m)

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