

AGENDA ITEM NO.

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO : LEISURE COMMITTEE - 21st SEPTEMBER 1999

SUBJECT : SPORTS ACTIVITY DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL
NEEDS - 3rd AUGUST 1999

FROM : SPORTS FACILITIES (CONTRACT) and LEISURE AND
AMENITIES BUSINESS UNITS and COMMISSIONING TEAM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform member of the success of the Disabled Day held at St. Nicholas Park Leisure Centre on the 3rd August 1999. A video showing the highlights of the day will be shown immediately before this meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The primary aim of the day was to allow all participants to have fun and enjoy sporting activities that they may not have tried before. The inspiration for the day came from a series of disability awareness training sessions delivered by Aspire attended by staff from the Sports Facilities and Leisure Business Units and was designed to build on the existing Mencap session that takes place each week at Castle Farm Recreation Centre.

2.2 It also served to promote an ongoing weekly session at St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre that will start on Thursday 9th September 1999 (4:00pm -5:00pm).

3. THE SPORTS ACTIVITY DAY

3.1 The day consisted of a full range of sporting activities including both adaptive, and non-adaptive sports. These included boccia, table tennis, short tennis, goal ball, table top football, cricket, rounders, badminton, football and wheel chair basket ball.

3.2 Special Needs Centres, community centres and day hospitals were invited to attend the day as well as individuals who were made aware of the event through internal and external advertising.

3.3 The Courier, Coventry Evening Telegraph and Heart FM promoted the event. Heart FM sent two of their most popular D.J's who took part in the activities. The event was also well attended by elected members and Senior officers from

Warwick District Council. Councillor Copping made a star appearance as captain of one of the rounders teams encouraged and assisted by Councillor Short.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The day proved to be highly successful, establishing that there were no specific access issues at this site and that the equipment which was used could be adapted for use by people with special needs.

4.2 Over eighty people attended the event. Whilst this was slightly fewer than was hoped, feedback from all participants and their helpers was positive and encouraging.

4.3 Copies of the video that was produced of the day have been supplied to Mencap and Aspire wh

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 The event was organised to raise awareness amongst local people with special needs of the range of sporting activities available to them in Warwick District Council facilities. It also allowed officers to assess the accessibility of St. Nicholas Park Leisure Centre for people with special needs.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are thanked for their support of this event and asked to note this report.

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Areas of District affected : - Warwick

Background Papers : - Report to Leisure Committee (8th June 1999)
Report to Resources Committee (23rd June 1999)