

## WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

**TO :** LEISURE COMMITTEE - 11TH JANUARY 2000

**SUBJECT :** GROOVE IS IN THE PARK

**FROM :** HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The report seeks Members' views on the proposed Groove is the Park event, planned for Monday, 29th May 2000, in the Pump Room Gardens.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Sambassadors of Groove, a community street band that has been meeting and performing in the area for the past year, will lead the event which will be linked to the BBC's Perfect Day on Monday, 29th May 2000.
- 2.2 The day will celebrate multi-cultural music in the Leamington area, through performances, costumes and dance from people across the town.

### **3. CURRENT SITUATION**

- 3.1 The event will involve schoolchildren, adults, community groups and special needs groups from North and South Leamington, in an event, which will bridge the North/South divide in the town. The Sambassadors will work with the children and adults participating, through their schools, to train them for the musical performance and to help them develop their costumes and dances for the day.
- 3.2 The day is also being supported by UNICEF as part of its project to raise awareness of the street children of Brazil and all funds raised from the sale of tea-lights (a tiny candle in a small container) will go to UNICEF.
- 3.3 Other participating groups will include musicians from the local Asian and African-Caribbean communities, in a fusion of culture and rhythm celebrating Leamington's cultural diversity.
- 3.4 The group are working with the support of the BBC to seek Millennium funding through the National Lottery. They also hope to receive a lot of funding in kind from the participating musicians, performers and schools. They will also seek sponsorship for the event from local businesses and organisations.

#### **4. THE PROPOSED DAY'S ACTIVITIES**

- 4.1 During the day, the Sambassadors of Groove, together with the newly trained musicians and dancers, will perform at pre-arranged venues in the area that would not usually see live music, e.g. old people's homes, hospitals, 'backstreet areas' and villages.
- 4.2 In the evening, all the participants, including children from the different schools, accompanied by musicians, will make a procession to the Pump Room Gardens. All will converge to perform (music and dance) the work they've rehearsed.
- 4.3 The Pump Rooms bandstand and gardens will be used from 6pm to 9pm for performances from the different participating musicians and closed by a torchlit procession out of the gardens by the children.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The event addresses Key Issues relevant to building communities.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 Members' views on the proposed event are requested.

**Pete Rourke**  
**Sports, Leisure and Community Manager**

**Background papers :** nil

**Contact officers :** **Pete Rourke**  
**01926 317871**

**Areas in district affected :** **Clarendon Ward**