

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO : LEISURE COMMITTEE - 11TH JANUARY 2000

SUBJECT : UK ATHLETICS 8 NATIONS INTERNATIONAL AND GRAND PRIX

FROM : HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Members' views on the staging of the UK Athletics 8 Nations International and Grand Prix Walking Competition at Victoria Park over an extended 1,000 metre circuit on Sunday 23rd April 2000.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In recent years the Council have hosted numerous successful local, regional and, national race walks at Victoria Park.
- 2.2 The popularity of this site has increased due to the improved facilities, it is an off road circuit with easy accessibility via motorway links.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 An approach has been received to host an international race walking event, involving at least 12 countries, at Victoria Park on, Sunday, 23rd April 2000, from 8 am to 5 pm. Countries expected to participate are China, Czech Republic, England, France, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Russia and Spain.
- 3.2 Many of the participants would be seeking to obtain the Olympic qualifying standard time, the race walks would range from 10k for juniors through to 50k for men and women. However, in order for this to be realistic, the organisers feel that a 1,000 metre circuit is required and this would mean the walkers need to utilise part of Archery Road from number 23 down to the park gates.
- 3.3 This proposed route would mean that no vehicles could go beyond number 23 Archery Road but obviously no restrictions would apply to numbers from the start of the road to the Cricketers Arms inclusive or Victoria Street or Victoria Road. Pedestrian access to properties 23 to 41 Archery Road and to Victoria Park would not be affected.
- 3.4 Letters have been sent to residents in properties 23 to 41 Archery Road and their views and comments will be verbally reported to this meeting.
- 3.5 If the race were to proceed, it would have minimal effect on the other park attractions as the use of the tennis courts, playground equipment and skateboarding would still be available to the general public.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 No specific Key Issues but does encourage tourism and the building of communities.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The staging of this prestigious race walk, involving at least 12 countries, can be hosted at Victoria Park where the site facilities are adequate but an extended circuit is required.
- 5.2 However, in order to maximise entrants' chances of reaching the Olympic qualifying time, a 1,000 metre circuit is required. This would mean the temporary closure of Archery Road from numbers 23 to 41 to vehicles from 8 am to 5 pm on Sunday, 23rd April 2000.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Members are asked to approve the staging of this international race walking event on a 1,000 metre circuit and for officers to apply for the temporary closure of 23 to 41 Archery Road on Sunday, 23rd April 2000 to enable this to happen.

Pete Rourke
Sports Leisure and Community Manager

Background Papers : Nil

Contact Officer : Pete Rourke
(01926 317871)

Areas in district affected : Victoria Park