

# LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Monday, 6 June 2016 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## Voting Members

Cllr Liz Corps (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr T.D. Bridgeman  
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar  
Cllr Sue Dibble  
Cllr R.L.G. Dibbs  
Cllr J.H. Marsh  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan  
Cllr L.A. Taylor

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** That Cr. Liz Corps be appointed as Chairman of the Panel for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** That Cr. Mrs D.B. Bedford be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April, 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

### 4. APPOINTMENTS TO PANEL GROUPS

#### (1) Mid-Cycle Group –

It was **AGREED** that the membership of the mid-cycle meeting group for the Municipal Year 2016/17 would be as follows, the Chairman (Cr. Liz Corps), the Vice-Chairman (Cr. Mrs D.B. Bedford) and Cr. T.D. Bridgeman.

#### (2) Lido Task and Finish Group –

It was **AGREED** that the membership of the Lido Task and Finish Group for the Municipal Year 2016/17 would be agreed by the Head of Democratic and Customer Services in consultation with the Group Leaders in due course. It was also **AGREED** that the name of the group would be changed to the Lido Review Working Group.

## 5. RUSHMOOR ARTS HUB

The Panel welcomed Mr. Tony McGovern, Rushmoor Arts Hub (RAH) Project Manager, and Mr. Barney Jeavons, Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), RAH Steering Group Chair who attended the meeting to give a presentation on the work carried out so far on the project.

The Panel noted the background to the project. It was advised that Rushmoor had been listed in the bottom 20% of areas in the country for arts, making it eligible for funding from Arts Council England (ACE). In 2012, an unsuccessful bid had been submitted to the ACE South-east; however, after geographical changes within the ACE, this was followed in 2013 by a visit from ACE South-west. A consultation, carried out locally for ACE South-west, took place during 2014 to establish who required help and what help was needed in the area. The consultation findings had led to funds in excess of £39,000 being granted in spring 2015, to the Council and the HCT.

The consultation highlighted that 78% of respondents would like more arts provision in Rushmoor and 42% had stated that they would like to help develop it. Others identified that their organisation would benefit from a dedicated Rushmoor arts website and networking opportunities, and visits from high quality arts organisations.

A Steering Group had been established involving Mr. Jeavons from the HCT, the SoCo music project, First Wessex Housing Association, the Council and Rushmoor Voluntary Services with Rushmoor Schools Plus who had taken the role of co-ordinating the project. The Group met monthly and had established terms of reference and an action plan; it was noted that Mr. McGovern dedicated 10 hours per week of his time to the project. The Group were also supported by a mentor from ACE South-west.

The Panel was then advised of the project activities, including: the provision of inspirational training and development opportunities; the delivery of a website and regular e-newsletters; the hosting of network events; and, the creation of a grant scheme for young people to develop their own skills.

It was explained that a number of learning visits had taken place, Mr. McGovern and Mr. Jeavons had made trips to Bristol, Basingstoke, Farnham, Eastleigh, Exeter, Torbay and Plymouth to experience their creative spaces and how the arts sat within a borough/district. The majority of these places were more established with the arts as part of their communities and the trips had been a productive insight into how the arts could become embedded in local society.

A number of training and development activities had also taken place, including mystery shoppers at the West End Centre and Princes Hall and West End Centre staff development through "learning as the customer". This had been achieved by visiting venues and a planned visit for some staff members to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

It was reported that a RAH website was currently being developed and a Facebook and Twitter page had been established. The website would have information about arts organisations and events in Rushmoor and would give visitors to the site the opportunity to chat with each other, creating an online forum/networking facility. It was advised that the sites' content would be closely monitored. A networking session had taken place in March 2016, to which 54 organisations had been invited to attend but only fifteen had attended. Mr McGovern advised that it had proven difficult to get organisations involved in the project and a decision had been made that the next networking session, in September, would be opened up to a wider audience.

The Panel was informed of the Young Peoples Arts Grant. Grants of between £50 and £1,000 were available to young people between the ages of 13-25 who lived or studied in Rushmoor. The scheme had been promoted in the Arena magazine and the children of Fernhill School, poet Chris Redmond and Whitestone Media, had produced a promotional video. To date, five applications had been successful, with awards of between £350 and £950 to two animators, a filmmaker, a dancer and a drummer.

It was reported that the Arts Council had been provided with an interim report on the progress of the project and had stated that Rushmoor was now on the Arts Council's radar. The next stage would be to get together with the stakeholders to talk about the future of the project to determine how it could be developed.

The Panel discussed the possibility of partnership working with the University College of Arts (UCA), Farnham, which in the past had exhibited at the West End Centre. It was thought that this project might assist in creating a partnership between RAH and UCA. In addition, it was advised that the Sixth Form College held an art exhibition annually of works created by the students. It was noted that, due to cutbacks, funding was tight and the exhibition might need to be stopped in the future. It was suggested that a grant could be given to the college to enable the exhibition to continue.

A discussion was then held on embedding the arts in every part of the strategic plan and policy. It was felt important to encourage arts in schools and the possibility of utilising empty shop spaces to display art work could be investigated. It was also suggested that a Member of the Panel could be invited to join a stakeholder meeting.

The Panel **ENDORSED** the Rushmoor Arts Hub and requested an update on the project at a future meeting.

## 6. **LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT FOR SPORTS**

The Head of Community and Environmental Services, gave a presentation on the Local Authority Support for Sport. It was reported that Rushmoor was considered a stronghold for sport and had second to none facilities within its boundaries. The majority of the facilities within the Borough were self-funded and ran on a voluntary basis. However, a small number provided by the Council were, in particular:

- Aldershot Indoor Pools
- Aldershot Lido
- Southwood Golf Course
- Farnborough Leisure Centre
- Connaught Leisure Centre

As part of the Council's 8-Point Plan, discretionary services were under scrutiny and it was important to try and make them as self-funding as possible. The Panel recognised that sports facilities were expensive to run and replace.

Over the past six years, it was noted that £27 million had been invested in the Borough's sports and play facilities. Funding had been provided from numerous sources including the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sport England and the Military. The Borough had in the region of £100 million worth of sport/play assets within its boundaries.

Mr. Amies advised of the Council's strategic priorities, including health and wellbeing, community safety, economic development, social cohesion and inequalities, neighbourhood renewal and educational attainment. Sport played its part in addressing these priorities through: physical activity to help combat medical issues such as diabetes and obesity; the employment of 700 part/full time staff and 1,000 volunteers; and, Sport for All – tackling inequality and raising aspirations through the “Be the Best” initiative. The Panel viewed a short video titled the “Hampshire Youth Games – Mission Possible”, which shared inspiring stories from young people involved in the games held in Aldershot.

The Panel was then apprised of the numerous other activities available around the Borough, these included walking groups, couch to 5k and Park Run, cycling and walking football and basketball, specifically aimed at the older generation. It was noted that Rushmoor had reached the top ten authorities nationally in the “Active People's Survey”, for participating in 30 minutes or more activity a week. It was also noted that 100% of its junior football clubs had been awarded with Charter Mark status and several clubs, across different disciplines, had produced Olympic athletes.

It was important that the sporting clubs throughout the Borough remained sustainable by developing opportunities to generate income, investing to save, reducing running costs and securing funding opportunities. Some clubs rented space to other organisations in their facilities during the day when buildings would not normally be in use and others had links with prestigious clubs or sports providers. Some benefitted from sponsorship from local or national companies and others supported charities, such as “Race for Life”.

The Panel discussed the presentation and the issues around sporting facilities and it was noted that some residents still believed that there was nothing available for young people in the Borough. It was also mentioned that the Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy had trouble funding coaches as its finances were tight. In response to a query, it was explained that funding was still available from the likes of Sustrans, which had previously contributed £130,000 for improvements to the Cove Brook Greenway.

The Borough's two football clubs were mentioned and it was advised that an update could be given at a future meeting. A discussion would take place at the next mid-cycle meeting to determine the way forward.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Amies for his presentation.

## 7. CONNAUGHT LEISURE CENTRE

The Head of Community and Environmental Services reported on a proposal for operational changes at the Connaught Leisure Centre.

The Panel noted that the Borough had a number of community schools, most of which were self-funding and were being run with little or no financial assistance from the Council. However, it was advised that Connaught Leisure Centre, currently managed by the Council and situated within the grounds of Connaught School, was running at a deficit of approximately £30,000 per annum. Mr. Amies advised that the school had some concerns over safeguarding as the gym area was only accessible though the school, allowing adults to walk through the corridors unaccompanied.

It was advised that an average of fifteen people were using the gym facilities on a weekly basis during school opening hours (8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.). It was proposed that following consultation with the users, the gym opening hours could be amended to 5.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Displaced daytime users could be re-located to the Aldershot Indoor Pools gym facilities. This proposal would result in a potential saving of around £40,000 per annum.

In response to a query it was noted that to create separate access to the facilities would be costly and users would still need to access the building via playground areas where children may be present.

It was **AGREED** that the Head of Community and Environmental Services would consult with the daytime users and their views would be taken into account in the decisions on the Leisure Centre's future.

| <b>Action to be taken</b>   | <b>By Whom</b>                                | <b>When</b>     |
|---|---|-----------------|
| The Head of Community and Environmental Services be requested to consult with daytime users of the Connaught Leisure Centre on the proposals set out above and ensure their views are taken into account. | Head of Community and Environmental Services. | September, 2016 |

## 8. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel **NOTED** the current work programme.

It was advised that a visit to the Military Sports Facilities had been scheduled for a meeting of the Panel. However, it was felt that, if Members were still keen to visit the facilities, a date would be set outside of the cycle of meetings. This would be discussed further at the next mid-cycle meeting.

A number of items were raised for consideration at future meetings, these were noted and would be discussed at the next mid-cycle meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm.

CLLR LIZ CORPS (CHAIRMAN)

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