



RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

*at the Council Offices, Farnborough on
Monday, 8th June, 2015 at 7.00 pm*

To:

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

Cllr T.D. Bridgeman
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr J.H. Marsh
Cllr A.R. Newell
Cllr M. Staplehurst
Cllr B.A. Thomas

Enquiries regarding this agenda should be referred to the Panel Administrator: Adele Taylor, Democratic and Customer Services, Email: adele.taylor@rushmoor.gov.uk
Tel: 01252398831.

A G E N D A

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN –

To appoint a Chairman of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN –

To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

3. MINUTES – (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th March 2015(copy attached).

4. APPOINTMENTS TO PANEL GROUPS –

(1) To appoint the membership of the Mid-Cycle Meeting. The Membership is normally as follows:

- The Chairman and Vice Chairman and a representative from the other political parties.

(2) To appoint the membership of the Aldershot Lido Task and Finish Group. The Membership in 2014/15 was as follows:

- Crs. Mrs. D.B Bedford, T.D. Bridgeman, D.E. Clifford, K. Dibble and B.A. Thomas, with attendance by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Youth (Cr. Sue Carter) as required. The group has recommended that the Membership remains the same for 2015/16.

5. ALDERSHOT TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB –

To receive a tour of the facility followed by a presentation from Mr. Shahid Azeem, Chairman of Aldershot Football Club on the working arrangements and activities of the Football Club.

6. WORK PROGRAMME – (Pages 5 - 12)

To review the Panel's current work programme (copy attached), and to agree priorities where necessary.

MEETING REPRESENTATION

Members of the public may ask to speak at the meeting on any of the items on the agenda by writing to the Panel Administrator at the Council Offices, Farnborough by 5.00 pm three working days prior to the meeting.

Applications for items to be considered for the next meeting must be received in writing to the Panel Administrator fifteen working days prior to the meeting.

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LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Monday, 16th March, 2015 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 p.m.

Voting Members

Cr. Liz Corps (Chairman)
Cr. D.M. Welch (Vice-Chairman)

Cr. Mrs. D.B. Bedford	Cr. K. Dibble	a Cr. Barbara Donaghue
Cr. T.D. Bridgeman		Cr. G.B. Lyon
Cr. P.I.C. Crerar		Cr. B.A. Thomas

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cr. Barbara Donaghue.

19. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January, 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

20. OPEN SPACES, SPORTS AND RECREATION STUDY –

The Panel welcomed Mr. Peter Amies, Head of Community, and Mr. Andy Ford, Parks Development Officer, who attended the meeting to advise the Panel on the findings of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation study that had been carried out as part of the work related to the Rushmoor Plan. A full copy of the report could be found on the Rushmoor website. One of the main objectives of the study had been to identify deficiencies and surpluses in the provision of open space, sport and recreation in the Borough. This had been achieved by auditing fourteen indoor facilities and 123 open spaces to help underpin planning policies and justify developer contributions and community infrastructure levy receipts.

The Panel was advised that participation in sporting activities in Rushmoor was higher than the County average. Dominant groups categorised in the study included: settling down males (26-45), comfortable mid-life males (46-55), middle England mums (46-55) and retired people.

Open space consultation workshops had been carried out to assess residents' satisfaction levels and areas for improvement. It had been found that there were high levels of satisfaction relating to the open spaces available although improvements could be made around directional signage, connectivity and public rights of way on Ministry Of Defence land and a better balance between bio-diversity and recreation could be sought. It was

also suggested that green gyms and trim trails were in demand and the Panel noted that, in the future, it was hoped that at least one of these types of facilities could be installed in both Aldershot and Farnborough. A survey had also been carried out in line with the workshops to which 328 people had responded. It had been identified that 80% of people valued the open spaces available and 70% used them at least once a week for a range of reasons, including for children's activities, to observe wildlife and to relax and exercise. Some concerns had been noted from the survey, these included dog fouling, litter, the provision of additional bins and seats and the need for improved signage. However, 76% of people felt safe when visiting the open spaces and 73% felt that the parks were well maintained and clean. It was noted that the younger generation had highlighted a desire for skate parks, a BMX track and a climbing wall.

It was explained that, as part of the process, an indoor sports consultation had also been carried out with eight schools, 33 clubs and thirteen governing bodies interviewed. Findings showed that satisfaction levels were above the county average, the indoor provision in Rushmoor was well catered for and there was a considerable amount of sporting activity taking place in the Borough. From the interviews, schools were generally satisfied with the facilities they accessed for community use but felt that they could be assisted to enable more community use of their facilities. The clubs that were involved stated that, as membership numbers increased, it was difficult to access quality facilities to accommodate them. Most issues raised related to cost, availability and the suitability of the equipment.

Specific indoor facilities were considered by the Panel in further detail:

- Swimming Pools – It was noted that Rushmoor had a high level of water space, 22sqm per 1,000 population, with peak capacity use at 56%. On average 9.2% of the Borough population swam once a week or more compared to the regional average of 6.8%. Priorities identified were:
 - Improve the Aldershot Pools hall, in particular the ceiling and changing facilities
 - Consider a movable boom in Farnborough
- Sports Halls – it was advised that supply exceeded demand with peak capacity usage at 67% compared to the County average of 59%. 32% of the community used the facilities once or more a week and a large proportion of the indoor space had recently been released due to the 3G pitches being installed across the Borough. Priorities identified were:
 - Improve school sports halls and changing facilities
 - Promote released space for other recreational uses

- Health and fitness – It was advised that there was a high number of fitness stations in the Borough (855 stations), nine stations per 1,000 population in Rushmoor compared to 4.7 stations county-wide. 23% used the facilities more than once a week compared to 15% regionally. Priorities included improving the offer at the Aldershot Pools and the Connaught Leisure Centre.

The Panel was advised that other sports had also been looked at in more depth, including; indoor bowls, squash, martial arts and gymnastics. Provision for these sports was sufficient to meet demand and Mr. Amies reported that the Military had judo and boxing facilities and an approach could be made to them to consider opening them to the public. The identified priorities in these areas were to ensure that the quality of the existing facilities was maintained and that the activities were promoted.

The Panel discussed the standards of the open spaces. It was advised that the quality of Southwood Woodland and Rowhill was very high, and the green corridors such as Basingstoke Canal, Cove Brook Greenway and Blackwater Valley were also of a high standard. It was noted, however, that there were opportunities to better link the green corridors with wider open space networks.

There was then a discussion around allotment provision and cemeteries and churchyards. The Panel noted that interviews would be held later that week for the vacant Allotments Officer post. The new post holder would work to alleviate the issues around the shortfall in provision compared to the length of the waiting list by reducing the size of some plots and releasing unworked plots where appropriate. In relation to cemeteries and churchyards, it was advised that some work was required at Redan Road, St. John's and Victoria Road cemeteries to enhance and meet deficiencies in parks and natural green spaces.

The Panel was informed of the findings relating to provision for young people. It was noted that the local community was pleased with the number of play areas and were willing to travel to the larger play spaces of which there were seven in the Borough. Of the seven, it was advised that Manor Park, Aldershot and Municipal Gardens, Aldershot would this year be consulted on for upgrading. The Borough had sixteen medium sized play areas of which ten achieved the quality benchmark but provided limited play value and, of the 29 small sites, ten met the quality benchmark and five reached neither the benchmark standard nor the play value. It was advised that further consideration needed to be given to playground provision to identify play areas surplus to requirements and this would be done through consultation with Ward Councillors.

In summary the following recommendation would be made for the Rushmoor Local Plan Development Planning Document (DPD):

- All new open space quality standards be set in line with the study findings and the opportunity, where appropriate, be taken to enhance existing areas rather than providing a new provision of a lesser facility.
- The network of parks and gardens be protected and enhanced and the provision of new signage and parking be provided where necessary.
- The Ministry of Defence be encouraged to retain public use of its land
- The deficiency in allotment provision be addressed
- Community groups be encouraged to get involved in open space to share knowledge/skills
- Consideration be given to the impacts of noise and illumination on bio diversity
- Retain and enhance indoor sports provision
- Seek to enhance local play experiences and consider natural play areas
- Consideration be given to establishing a charitable trust to open up more funding opportunities
- Identify opportunities to deliver improvements through the Community Infrastructure Levy

The Panel **ENDORSED** the recommendations.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Amies and Mr. Ford for attending the meeting and giving a comprehensive overview of the study.

21. **WORK PROGRAMME –**

The Panel **NOTED** the current work programme. It was advised that the Panel's Annual Report would be produced for the Council meeting on 23rd April, 2015 and the next meeting of the Lido Task and Finish Group would be held on Monday 30th March, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.18 p.m.

CR. LIZ CORPS
CHAIRMAN

LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME

Set out below are the key issues which form the Panel's on-going work programme. The topics covered reflect the following:

- the development of a new policy for recommendation to the Cabinet
- scrutiny of the process of the way in which decisions have been or are being made
- reviewing issues of concern to local people or which affect the Borough
- review of performance and delivery of specific services
- monitoring and scrutinising the activities of others
- items raised by Members and agreed by the Panel for consideration
- review of policies and proposals developed by others

The purpose of the work programme is to identify the way in which topics are being dealt with and the progress made with them. An update will be submitted to each meeting of the Panel. New issues are highlighted in the programme.

LEISURE AND YOUTH PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTABILITY AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The terms of reference of the Panel will include all these issues contained in the Leisure and Youth portfolio. The functions set out in the Scheme of Delegation are:

<p>Leisure and Recreation Facilities</p> <p>To deal with all matters relating to the provision and management of leisure facilities and the improvement, repair and maintenance of all buildings and equipment in relation to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks, woodlands, recreational grounds, open space and play areas • allotments <p>sports and recreation initiatives (including childcare and play)</p> <p>To deal with matters relating to the management and operation of major leisure facilities owned and/or operated by the Council and to consider initiatives for the provision of new leisure facilities in the Borough. In particular, to examine issues in relation to:</p>	<p>To deal with all matters relating to leisure marketing, heritage and tourism.</p> <p>To deal with issues relating to the letting and monitoring of contracts relating to the functions in the portfolio.</p> <p>To develop, maintain and promote those services and facilities provided for the Borough and the wider area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke Canal • Blackwater Valley Countryside Management Service
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldershot Pools Complex and Lido • Alpine Snowsports Centre • Farnborough Leisure Centre • Princes Hall • Southwood Golf Course <p>To carry out the Council's functions in respect of consultative arrangements on library services and community schools.</p>	<p>To carry out the Council's functions relating to grounds maintenance, subject to contractual issues where the function is provided jointly with other services being dealt with through the Environment Portfolio.</p>
<p>Town Twinning</p> <p>To deal with the social and cultural aspects of town twinning.</p>	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>To deal with all matters relating to the administration and enforcement of the Council's byelaws relating to the functions of the portfolio.</p> <p>To develop, implement and monitor the Council's strategies for addressing youth issues and the needs of young people in the Borough.</p> <p>To work with education providers to promote Life-long learning.</p>
<p>Rushmoor in Bloom</p> <p>To deal with all matters, in consultation with the Rushmoor in Bloom Forum, relating to the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual Rushmoor in Bloom Competition, including promotion, publicity and sponsorship, programme of events and presentation of prizes; • participation in and arrangements for the Council's entry to the Southern England in Bloom Competition; • applications for commemorative floral displays. 	

WORK PROGRAMME – OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

At the mid-cycle meeting held on 23rd August 2004, there was a preliminary discussion on developing the work of the Panel in context of the recent review of overview and scrutiny carried out by South East Employers. The meeting examined how to structure the future work and specifically dividing the Panel's work programme into three main types of issues:

- Ongoing items for monitoring and scrutiny including regular performance management information
- A limited number of projects for in depth investigation
- Items for information

In addition, requests can be made to discuss key decisions shown on the forward plan in advance of the relevant Cabinet or Council meeting.

PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY THE PANEL

The Panel agreed to identify 3 – 4 issues which would form major projects for the Panel. For each, a task and finish group has been established and the Panel was asked to agree the following:

- The objective of the project
- When it would be completed
- A lead member drawn from the Panel
- Members making up the task and finish group

There is also a regular discussion at the mid-cycle meeting on some of the major leisure developments that are being considered for the future.

SCRUTINY & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

These items will be discussed on a regular basis by the Panel in order to monitor progress and identify any specific issues. It is proposed to develop a range of performance information which will then be reported to the Panel on a regular basis, i.e. every 4 – 6 months.

DATE RAISED	ISSUE AND DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC	PROCESS AND TIMETABLE	CURRENT POSITION	CONTACT (SERVICE MANAGER)
25.11.13	Lido Review	The Lido Review Working Group identified five options for the Lido consultation exercise, which were endorsed by Cabinet in October 2013. Consultation ran until the end of November 2013. An update was provided to the Panel in March 2014.	The Cabinet considered the report from the Head of Community on the work of the Lido Task and Finish Group and the recommended actions at its meeting on 10th February, 2015.	Peter Amies, Head of Community Services, Tel: (01252) 398750, Email: peter.amies@rushmoor.gov.uk
08.12.14		Further consultation has taken place in light of the work carried out by the Group. The findings are being presented at a meeting in January 2015.	The Cabinet recommended that the Task and Finish Group consider, in more detail, a number of issues raised at the meeting. This work is ongoing.	
08.06.09	Southwood Golf Course	A review of the contract was carried out in 2009/10 together with a tender process. As a result, Mack Trading, have been awarded an initial contract for nine years. As part of the agreement the Council is examining the longer term issues in conjunction with Mack Trading.	The operation of the Golf Course is continuing to be monitored.	Peter Amies, Head of Community Services, Tel: (01252) 398750, Email: peter.amies@rushmoor.gov.uk

14.11.11	Runways End	A meeting was held at Runways End to tour the new facility and to discuss the operational arrangements. The facility had only recently opened and it was agreed that further work should be undertaken by the Panel once it had been in operation for a while.	The arrangements at Runways End would continue to be monitored.	Peter Amies, Head of Community Services, Tel: (01252) 398750, Email: peter.amies@rushmoor.gov.uk
08.09.14		A further meeting was held at Runways End where Members had a tour of the facility and received a presentation from the Centre Manager on the operational arrangements and plans for making the facility more accessible to the public in the future. Performance information was also provided to the Panel.		
14.08.13	Football Clubs	The Panel has previously met with representatives of both Aldershot and Farnborough Football Club. At the end of the 2012/13 season both clubs went into administration and since that time briefings have been provided to members on the work being done to assist in securing the future of both clubs. The Clubs are now playing in the Football Conference and Conference South Division respectively.	The working arrangements at the Clubs are being monitored and further reports made to the Panel as appropriate. Arrangements are being made for the meeting in June 2015 to be held at the Football Club.	Andrew Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer, Tel: (01252) 398396 Email: andrew.lloyd@rushmoor.gov.uk

INFORMATION ITEMS / ISSUES TO BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW

These following items are provided for the information of the Panel. They have been considered in the past and will be monitored from time to time to consider whether specific work is required:

- **Cultural Strategy** – The Panel has a monitoring and review role.
- **Southwood Community Centre** – The future of the Centre is being kept under review although in the short term the future of the Centre is assured. A report is to be made to the Panel when required.
- **Princes Hall** –The Panel will receive regular reports on performance and activities.
- **Farnborough Leisure Centre/ Aldershot Pools Complex/ Southwood Golf Course** – The Panel receives the Annual Service Reports from DC Leisure on these facilities to enable it to monitor activities and performance.
- **Southwood Woodland** – The Panel has been monitoring progress with the project and a report will be made once the planning process has been completed.
- **Alpine Snowsports** – The Panel will monitor performance and activities from time to time.
- **West End Centre** – The Panel will monitor operations at the centre and consider any changes if they are proposed.
- **Aldershot Library** – A report will be made to the Panel if any change are proposed to the Library.

LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS – 2015/16

8th June, 2015	Monitoring and Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldershot Town Football Club 	
7th September, 2015	Monitoring and Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC Youth Consultation 	
9th November, 2015	Monitoring and Scrutiny	
1st February, 2016	Monitoring and Scrutiny	
4th April, 2016	Monitoring and Scrutiny	
Dates/Items to be confirmed	Monitoring and Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds • Army Sports Facilities • Indoor Sports Facilities 	Panel Projects

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