

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Leisure Services Committee held, in committee, in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Thursday, 2 February 2006, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:- Alderman M Copeland (in the Chair)
Alderman J Norris
Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor C Tosh

IN ATTENDANCE:- Area Leisure Manager, Sports Development
Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES:- Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman
Mrs G Rice and Councillor M Henderson

Alderman Copeland welcomed Members to the meeting.

LS/2006/04: MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 5 JANUARY 2006

Noted.

REPORT FROM THE AREA LEISURE MANAGER

LS/2006/05: FITNESS SUITE PRICES

The Area Leisure Manager presented recommendations for a new price range for the Robinson, Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres, which incorporated an increase of approximately 10%. For comparison, the Manager had included competitor prices, and Castlereagh compared very favourably.

Noted.

LS/2006/06: POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF BUS - FUNDING

The Area Leisure Manager gave an update on possible funding options for the purchase of a minibus. Officers were currently investigating the possibility of funding through the Sports and Arts Foundation, and it was hoped that, later

in the year, additional funding might be available through the Energy Saving Trust.

Noted.

LS/2006/07: LETTER TO SCHOOLS REGARDING BUS AND JUNIOR FITNESS SUITE

The Area Leisure Manager reported that letters had been sent to schools in perceived catchment areas to ascertain whether they would be interested in a transport service provided by the Council for pupils to Council facilities. The schools were also asked to state their interest in a purpose-built junior fitness suite at each of the Council's facilities as well as provision for 12-15-year olds. The Manager added that personal visits from officers were also being offered to give schools the opportunity to become better informed about the facilities on offer.

The Manager stated that he would give a further update at a future Committee meeting.

Noted.

LS/2006/08: USE OF FITNESS SUITE – 12-15 AGE GROUP

The Area Leisure Manager outlined plans to introduce sessions in the fitness suite for the 12-15 age group. This would consist initially of 5 x 45-minute sessions per week in each centre during off-peak times for a period of six weeks at a cost of £18. Breathe staff would provide supervision and instruction, and the completion of medical questionnaires as well as parental permission would be required.

The Manager stated it was hoped that, by taking part in these fitness suite sessions, young people would become more interested in a healthier lifestyle. If the scheme proved successful, it could be advertised in the press in order to attract more customers.

Noted.

LS/2006/09: EASTER SPORTS TASTERS AT LOUGH MOSS AND BELVOIR

The Area Leisure Manager informed Members that sports tasters would be organised during the Easter school holidays for Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres. If the scheme proved successful, it would be continued during the summer holidays and extended to include the Robinson Centre.

Noted.

LS/2006/10: REUSE OF BIKES INITIATIVE WITH BIKE DOCK

The Area Leisure Manager reported that Sport Relief had indicated that, as they are a fundraising and grant-giving organisation, this initiative did not meet their criteria. However, another organisation, Global Hand, might be in a position to let the Council have the names of organisations that might be interested. The Manager stated that he would inform Members as soon as there were any further developments.

Noted.

LS/2006/11: INCIDENT AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE

On 12 January 2006, a customer at the Robinson Centre suffered a heart attack. Staff administered CPR and shock treatment with the centre's defibrillator, and it was later confirmed that this probably saved the customer's life. The Area Leisure Manager tabled a letter received from the customer's wife, thanking the staff at the Robinson Centre for their quick reaction.

During the ensuing discussion, Members asked the Area Leisure Manager to pass on their thanks and congratulations to the staff involved in the incident.. Councillor Jeffers suggested that the staff be recognised for their efforts, and that perhaps, once the gentleman had fully recovered, he and his wife be invited to the Civic Centre to meet the Mayor and the staff involved. The Area Leisure Manager agreed to make contact with the gentleman's wife to ascertain his condition and put the suggestion to her for consideration.

Councillor Duncan proposed the purchase of a defibrillator for the Belvoir Centre at a cost of approximately £2,500, in order to bring it in line with the Robinson and Lough Moss Centres.

Councillor Bunting seconded the proposal, and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to consider the purchase of a defibrillator for the Belvoir Centre at a cost of approximately £2,500.

LS/2006/12: LOCKERS

The Area Leisure Manager outlined a token option for lockers, whereby customers would make a one-off payment for a token, which could be reused during future visits to the centre. The tokens would be of a consistent size, and each locker would have its unique token. The advantages for the Council would be that the existing lockers could be retained, and the charge for the tokens would cover their cost. The Manager suggested that these tokens could be used on a trial basis first.

Members entered into a discussion. Councillor Bunting was of the view that the price of the tokens could be refunded when customers no longer wished to use them, and it should be high enough to provide an incentive to customers to hand them back.

Councillor J Beattie felt that Officers should investigate regarding the cost of tokens and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That Officers investigate regarding the cost of tokens for lockers at the Robinson Centre and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

REPORT FROM THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

LS/2006/13: IFA GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

The Sports Development Officer informed Members that interviews for the post of Grassroots Development Officer had taken place in January 2006, and the successful candidate would be announced shortly.

The Officer stated that some funding was available from UEFA and the IFA towards the cost of a grassroots mini-soccer synthetic pitch, which could be established in partnership with the IFA in order to develop grassroots soccer for boys and girls in the Castlereagh area.

Although the project was still in the early stages, initial proposals had been discussed with Playdale Playgrounds Ltd, the company charged with overseeing the installation of mini-soccer pitches. The Sports Development Officer hoped that she would be able to provide more details after meeting with the IFA.

Noted.

LS/2006/14: SPORT IN OUR COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATION – DISABILITY SPORT

The Sports Development Officer reported that current sports development initiatives showed that there was limited provision for disability sport in the Borough. In order to make improvements and establish a comprehensive disability sport programme, an application for an amount of £183,119.90 had been made to the Sports Council for Northern Ireland through its 'Sport in our Community' funding programme for a four-year disability sports programme. The Sports Council had indicated that a decision regarding the application would be made by the end of February 2006.

If the application was successful, it was hoped to develop Belvoir Activity Centre as a disability sports facility to improve disability sport provision in the Borough. The main objectives are as follows:

- To develop a competent, knowledgeable disability sport workforce to deliver the proposed disability sport physical literacy programme;
- To increase participation in disability sport and physical activity initiatives for people with disabilities in the Borough;
- To improve the health and well-being of people with disabilities and learning difficulties;

- To reduce barriers and encourage people with disabilities and learning difficulties to participate in sport;
- To provide opportunities for people with disabilities to become sports leaders and assistants;
- To establish a multi-activity club at Belvoir Activity Centre for people with disabilities.

The Council's contribution to the proposed initiative was estimated to be £1,000 per annum.

Alderman Copeland stated that training for disabled children was already taking place in Belvoir Activity Centre, and he enquired whether this funding application was in addition to previous ones. The Sports Development Officer replied that funding of £215,000 had already been secured for other sports development initiatives, and an application for £19,000 had been made in respect of 'New Active Lifestyle', a school-based sports programme.

Councillor Duncan supported the disability sports programme, as she was of the view that this initiative was one of the best of its kind.

Noted.

LS/2006/15: TRADING ACCOUNTS FOR LEISURE CENTRES FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2005 – 31 DECEMBER 2005

In the absence of the Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Alderman Copeland took Members through the trading accounts for the Council's leisure centres.

Members entered into a discussion, and the Area Leisure Manager answered Members' queries in respect of salaries, VAT etc.

Noted.

LS/2006/16: TRADING ACCOUNTS FOR CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB RESTAURANT FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 DECEMBER 2005

Alderman Copeland took Members through the trading accounts for Castlereagh Hills Golf Club restaurant.

Members entered into a discussion regarding the restaurant's performance to date. Councillor Bunting proposed that the Council put a marketing strategy in place to promote the restaurant. She felt that, if the restaurant was more widely advertised, it would result in more customers. Councillor Tosh seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: That a marketing strategy be put in place to promote Castlereagh Hills Golf Club restaurant.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____ 2006 with the exception of
Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE