

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF LEISURE TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 8 JULY 2008
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.00 - 7.32 PM**

Members Present:	Mrs R Gadsby (Chairman), D Wixley (Vice-Chairman), A Boyce, D Dodeja, Ms J Hedges, S Murray and J M Whitehouse
Other members present:	Mrs H Harding
Apologies for Absence:	Miss R Cohen, G Pritchard and B Rolfe
Officers Present	J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), L MacNeill (Assistant Director of Environment & Street Scene), J Chandler (Assistant Director - Community Services and Customer Relations) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

Noted that there were no substitute members for this meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillors D Wixley and S Murray declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest by virtue of being their respective Town Council's representative currently in discussions with Epping College.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Director of Environment and Street Scene, John Gilbert, introduced the draft Terms of Reference for the Panel, which follows on from last year's Panel. The final report of the Panel was also attached for information.

The Panel received an update on the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre from the Assistant Director of Environment and Street Scene, Laura MacNeill. She reported that there is now a Portfolio Holder agreement to approach the school to get an agreement signed by both parties to continue with the current arrangements to March 2010 with a one year break clause. As the school part funds the centre it was important to know that they were still going to do so. The school is awaiting news on its new build project, given government funding. A report will be brought to the Panel about the feasibility of building on the Waltham Abbey Pool site. There is to be a meeting with planning officers to ascertain whether outline permission would be possible to obtain. If this is not feasible then they would have to go back to the alternative management resolution.

It was proposed that the next meeting of the Panel be held at either the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre or the Swimming Pool so that the Panel could see for themselves the layout of the centres. This was agreed by the Panel.

Councillor Whitehouse asked about the negotiations with SLM and the expansion of the centre, and could the Panel have a report on the sports centre arrangements and how it relates to Waltham Abbey. Mr Gilbert said that they would cover this in a future report to the Panel.

Councillor Whitehouse also asked about point 2 of the Waltham Abbey 'aims and objectives'. He questioned the use of the phrase 'to conclude negotiations' with King Harold School. He thought that it would be more appropriate for Officers or the Portfolio Holder to conclude any negotiation and report on the outcome to Members. The Director for the Environment and Street Scene agreed with him and said he would alter the wording.

The Panel then considered the Youth Initiatives Scheme. They noted that a report was being produced and will go to the next Panel meeting.

Julie Chandler (Assistant Director - Community Services and Customer Relations), appraised the meeting on the latest developments. The Council was awarded funding for the play strategy in December 2007. They are currently focusing on Limes Farm. New equipment will be installed in areas around the District. The first part of the installation in Limes Farm will be installed in August 2008, when they will also improve the CCTV coverage.

The equipment was of a new kind and would be the first of its kind in the country. The second phase of the Limes Farm installation to be installed as soon as possible. Later in the year they hope to go ahead with the project in Nazeing and in the spring 2009 they hope to get started on the Lambourne project. Mr Gilbert suggested that this project would continue into the next municipal year.

Councillor Mrs Harding gave some background to the installations. She said the Government are encouraging children to be challenged. The funding is from lottery money. The new equipment to be installed is to be for children in their teens and upwards.

Asked to describe the new equipment Julie Chandler replied that it would consist of RSJs, stepping stones, different surfaces, balancing beams and scaffolding poles. They are being designed in partnership with ROSPA and a play design company. There is a risk, but they will install safety surfacing.

The CCTV will not be monitored 24 hours a day but the recordings will be kept so that they can be reviewed later if something did occur.

The Panel then considered the item on the evaluation of the Epping Forest College sport facilities provision. Mr Gilbert said the council were keen to engage with the college, a meeting had been arranged with the Portfolio Holder and a report on this will be brought back to another Panel meeting.

Councillor Murray made two suggestions to add to the 'aims and objectives' of the Terms of References. They were:

- 1) to evaluate the sporting provision in conjunction with the Youth Council and for them to feed into our Panel; and
- 2) to put in a reference to read: "In consultation with any relevant Parishes".

This was agreed.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the terms of Reference for this Task and Finish Panel be agreed and submitted to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee, subject to some wording changes in item 2 of the Waltham Abbey section of the aims and objectives; and the addition of Councillor Murray's two suggestions to the Epping Forest College section of the aims and objectives section of the terms of reference.
- 2) That a start time of 7.30pm be agreed for this Panel's meetings.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The Panel agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 23 September 2008 starting at 7.30pm. The meeting to be held at the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre.