

## ***Report to the Council***

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 19 February 2008**

**Subject: Leisure and Young People**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Cohen**

**Item: 6(h)**

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### **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder be noted**

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### **District Play Award**

We are delighted that the Big Lottery Fund has approved Epping Forest District's Children's Play bid of £243,871.

Earlier this year the Epping Forest Play Partnership, lead by the District Council Leisure Services, undertook extensive consultation with local residents, along with an audit of the District's play facilities, in order to develop a Play Strategy and Big Lottery submission. Three key geographic localities were identified as priorities for improved play provision and these include: Limes Farm Estate in Chigwell and the village locations of Nazeing and Lambourne. The success of our bid means that we will be able to enhance play facilities for children in these areas whilst also providing a range of exciting and innovative pieces of equipment for teenagers in their own "youth space" environment.

### **Fit as a Fiddle**

Leisure Services Sports Development Section has also successfully secured £150k from Big Lottery Well Being Fund. This will see the first cross - district health improvement initiative, working with staff from Harlow and Uttlesford Council's, to deliver physical activity programmes to people in their mid fifties and above. The programme aims to address physical health needs, in view of the ageing population agenda.

Leisure staff will be responsible for training staff from the other authorities and supporting them in the development of physical activity programmes. They will also train local deliverers to expand provision in the Epping Forest District.

### **Touring Exhibition Programmes**

Through the success of the 'Tales of the Boarder' and Slavery Exhibitions, the Museum has successfully secured a further £30k from Renaissance in the Regions in 2008/09, to design and develop exhibitions that will tour Essex and the East Region.

The last of this year's tour is currently on show at the Museum until March 4<sup>th</sup> and focuses on 'Scouting', with a range of exhibits that have never been seen outside of

Gilwell Park. These include Baden Powell's Hussars dress uniform and his vast array of scouting memorabilia.

### **Epping Forest Youth Council**

A very successful Youth Council launch event took place on 29<sup>th</sup> January, where Members and Officers had the opportunity to meet the 20 Youth Councillors, who represent young people from across the district.

Two team building and induction days are being held at half term, which will include outdoor activities and bowling; work with a Theatre Company around behaviour and interpersonal relationships, and presentations from Leisure and Democratic Services staff on the functions and protocol of the Council.

It is hoped that all members will be supportive of the Youth Councillors in their role.

### **World Scout Jamboree – North Weald Airfield**

As previously reported to Council, in the summer of 2007, North Weald Airfield performed an important logistical role in support of the main Jamboree site at Hylands Park, Chelmsford.

Unfortunately, due to the considerable level of use by the several hundred heavy vehicle and bus movements per day, a stretch of internal roadway was damaged. The Council incurred emergency expenditure to reinstate the roadway. I am now able to confirm that the full cost of some £50,000 has been received from the Scout Association to reimburse the Council.