

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 28 June 2011**

**Subject: Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ricki Gadsby**

**Item: 6(f)**

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**Recommending:**

**That the report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted**

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## **Leisure/sports facilities**

Despite the recessionary times, the leisure centres managed by Sports and Leisure Management have continued to perform well, and, subject to final agreement between us, it is likely that the Council will benefit this year from the profit share arrangements built into the contract

## **Olympic Games**

It will soon be just a year to the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games. The Council continues to be involved across a wide range of issues regarding the White Water Centre just across the border in Broxbourne, with officers from all the authorities involved moving now from the planning phase into the operational phase. We now know that the Olympic Torch will stay overnight in Chelmsford and we await to learn the route it will take and the communities it will visit as it passes through Essex.

With just one year to go before the start of the London 2012 Games, Community Services are holding a free event for young people aged 11 to 18 as part of the London 2012 Open Weekend. The event which is taking place at Town Mead on Sunday 24 July 2011 includes screenings of the popular dance film "Street Dance" and the skateboard classic "Lords of Dog Town", sessions with the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation freestyles and football coaches, a skate and BMX jam, hair braiding and nail art stalls, and dance workshops with the star of "Street Dance", Kofi Agyemang. The event is being produced by EFDC in partnership with Waltham Abbey Town Council.

## **North Weald Airfield (Operational)**

The annual "Fun Day" took place on Sunday 5 of June, with funds being raised for a number of national and local charities including St Clare Hospice, the Herts & Essex Air Ambulance, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Help for Heroes. The day was a celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Eagles Squadron being based at North Weald during World War 2. Despite the somewhat unsettled weather, the event was very well attended. My thanks go to all the people who helped to make the day such a success, particularly Weald Aviation and the staff at North Weald Airfield.

## **Epping Forest District Museum**

Gallery Refurbishment at the Museum has seen the creation of the 'Your History' Gallery. The new display picks up the history of the area at the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and follows it through to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. By focusing on themes of work, home life

and shopping, it reflects the changes in the District and the lives of its residents over the last 300 years, including the story of the Cottis Iron Foundry and local dairy industry, which produced 'Epping Butter' extolled in the Victorian Mrs Beeton's 'Book of Household Management'.

The Museum is joint winner of the 2010 prestigious Alan Ball Local History Award for the best work of local history produced under the auspices of a local authority. The award is made by the Library Services trust, part of CILIP, the professional body for those engaged in information work. The award is for *The Life and Art of Octavius Dixie Deacon*, by Chris Pond and Richard Morris.

With support of the Museum Libraries and Archives Council/ Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Fund, the Museum has recently acquired a number of new items including two Bronze Age founders hoards dating to circa 1500 BC from Ongar and a medieval crucifix dating from the late fifteenth to early sixteenth century, which was found in North Weald.

9 July 2011 is the public opening of the 'I Love Music' exhibition, which showcases the talent and influence of music artists, bands, radio and venues of the eastern region. From the birth of radio at Chelmsford to current festivals via the many bands who played at the 'Wakes Arms' public house in the 60's and 70's. The exhibition will feature two major loans from the Victoria and Albert Museum; one of 60 pop icon, Sandy Shaw's dresses and an early poster for the Knebworth Festival.

### **Summer programme**

Community Services will be providing a varied and exciting holiday programme for 2 to 19 year olds across the district, including play schemes, play in the park, dance workshops, fitness sessions, trampolining, football, theatre productions, the Epping animated games and much more. 2011 Summer Brochure is available now from Community Services or from the Council's website.

### **Football Freestyle Competition**

Sports Development and Tottenham Foundation are providing an open event for under 11's to 16 years+ at a arrange of venues across the district. Apart from general prizes, the winner of the 16+ category will also win a 6 month contract as a Tottenham Hotspur Foundation Football Freestyler. The final is being held on Saturday 16 July.

### **New 3G Astroturf Pitch at Waltham Abbey**

On Monday 6 June, Cabinet approved the award of building contract for the 3G synthetic football pitch at Townmead, to AMB Sports Ltd for the total sum of £504,583.00. As per the original Cabinet decision, the Council will be entering into a joint management agreement with Waltham Abbey Town Council.

### **Community Arts**

EFDC artists Sonja Zelic and Helen Palmer have started work with residents and groups on the Limes Farm Estate to create a new artwork for the newly refurbished Limes Farm Hall. The artwork will also be part of the Epping Forest District Museum's China in the East programme.

### **Aiming High for Disabled Children funding**

Following the submission of a detailed funding application, a total of £46,000 was recently secured by Community Development, via the Essex Aiming High for Disabled Children Fund. This was for the improvement of play spaces at Hillyfields, Loughton and Larsens Park, Waltham Abbey to provide accessible play opportunities for children with

disabilities. Funding paid for improved pathways, accessible swings, roundabouts and interactive sensory boards.

### **Youth Councillors assist with City Of London's "Branching Out" Consultation**

Youth Councillors were invited to visit Epping Forest in April to view the Heritage Lottery funded work being carried out by the City Of London and to take part in the related consultation. Tree surgeons joined the Youth Councillors and explained their apprenticeship scheme. The Youth Councillors also toured the new Visitor Centre next to the Queen Elizabeth's Hunting lodge. The project includes the renovation of two Victorian coach houses and the Butlers Retreat Tea Shop. Youth Councillors gave feedback on the work to date and input a number of innovative ideas to encourage more young people to use the forest area.

### **Youth Council produce their "How Safe are U?" personal safety DVD**

Youth Councillors have been working hard to produce a Personal Safety DVD for schools to raise pupils' awareness of staying safe. Key messages include; travelling safely on public transport, personal safety, care of personal belongings and alcohol awareness. The project has been funded by the Youth Opportunity Fund and has included work in partnership with the Ignite Youth Group at St Marys Church Loughton, Roding Valley High School and Essex County Council. The DVD will be completed by July.

Youth Councillors are also producing a 'How to Report a Crime' leaflet for young people. They consulted with 80 of their peers and the majority said that they did not know how to report a crime or an incident. Youth Councillors are also producing worksheets for schools in the district to support the DVD and to ensure that pupils understand the key messages.