

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 13 December 2011

Subject: Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ricki Gadsby

Recommending:

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

Leisure

My Cabinet colleague, the Portfolio Holder for Safer, Cleaner, Highways, has, in her report made reference to the publication of the traffic regulation order for the Council's off street car parks. I would just like to reaffirm for Members that within that Order is the change to parking enforcement times at Traps Hill car park, which will eliminate the charge for parking between 08.00 and 09.00. I hope that this change will be welcomed by 'early bird' users of the Loughton Leisure Centre.

I would also ask Members and residents to note that the Christmas edition of the Forester Magazine contains the Christmas and New Year opening times for the Council's Leisure Centres. This information can also be found on the Council's website.

Olympic Games

The Olympic Games "Look and Feel" Plan for the Lee Valley White Water Centre and the surrounding areas (including the North Weald Park and Ride) has been submitted by Broxbourne Borough Council to LOCOG for their initial consideration. We expect to hear back from them shortly and in advance of the preferred ordering date for materials of mid December.

I mentioned in my last report of the proposals to consult local residents about local parking arrangements during the Olympic events at the Lee Valley Centre. The final arrangements for this are still being discussed with LOCOG and as promised I will ensure Members are made aware as soon as the arrangements have been finalised.

Members will be aware of the announcement last month that the Olympic Torch will be coming to Waltham Abbey on 7 July 2012. This is very exciting news for Waltham Abbey and for the District as a whole. Although for security reasons I cannot share with you the precise route and timings of the Torch relay, work has already started on establishing a community task force which will oversee the event. Even though the Torch will only be with us for a short part of the day, I hope that we will be able to provide entertainment throughout the day to ensure that this once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Olympic Torch is a success and brings credit to the District.

Community Services

Schools' Trampoline Project - Sports and Health Development has just received £9,627.00 to deliver a Rebound Therapy Trampolining Project starting in January 2012 for 12 schools covering the southern primary schools and a further £7,497.00 for 13 schools for rural schools. The project is a follow on from a successful pilot scheme where children referred by teaching staff, are bussed to the local sports centre and receive 10 weeks of trampolining coaching. Throughout the programme it has been proven that the project helps improve children's self esteem, coordination difficulties and ultimately, educational attainment.

Community Development launched a brand new '**Play in the Forest**' event at High Beach at half term in conjunction with staff from the Corporation of London. Funding for the day was secured by the Youth Council via the Think Big O2 grant and over 100 children and their families attended throughout the day.

Funding of £4800 has been secured from the South Local schools delivery group in order to provide "free" Summer Playscheme places in 2012 for 20 children identified by Head Teachers as having a level of financial or emotional need. This follows on from previous successful placements at Playschemes.

The '**Bang Out of Order**' initiative was delivered in Waltham Abbey and Ongar. Together with the Community Development Team, agencies including Trading Standards, Essex Police and Fire and Rescue came together to provide educational sessions and diversionary activities for young people in order to encourage positive and safe behaviour over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period. A similar project was delivered in Loughton via the Positive Introductions initiative. Again, this was a multi agency project and involved the provision of BMX and skate ramps for a day at Roding Valley High School, a football tournament and two club nights in Loughton High Road.

Epping Forest Youth Council organised the Youth Project of the Year Awards on 22 November. Each youth club was rated by the Youth Council with the overall winner being the Ignite Youth Group from Loughton. 10 clubs attended the prestigious event and feedback has been extremely positive.

In partnership with the Sports Development Team, Community Development have submitted a bid to Essex County Council's Short Breaks fund in order to secure two year funding in the region of £114K to provide additional services for children and young people with disabilities including; facilitated access to sports clubs and supported places at holiday Playschemes. The outcome of the bid is expected at the beginning of February 2012.

Celebrate! – The Council's Arts and Community Development teams delivered a one day course for groups who wishing to celebrate London 2012 or the Queen's Jubilee by organising local events. The workshop included details of licensing, event management and health and safety and was very well received by participants. The event was self funded

Works Like a Charm – An exciting arts programme linked to the Council's new Community Facility at Limes Farm has been underway over the last few months with local residents. Further workshops to create pieces of art to be displayed as part of the Community Art Trail are continuing on the estate when it opens that will focus on ideas from young people for display in the area being used in the evenings as a Youth Centre. Pieces from the project will also be going into the Museum's China in the East touring exhibition leading up to the Olympics. The project is mainly self funded with support from via the Museum as part of London 2012 Stories of the East.

The Very Snowy Christmas – Which is a festive performance for 3 – 7 years by Blunderbus Theatre Company, will be taking place on Monday 19 December 2011 at Epping Hall is already fully booked.

Museum Accreditation - The annual 'mystery shopper' inspection by Visit England as part of the VAQAS scheme praised the displays at the District Museum for the way that our exhibitions engage the public and make learning accessible and fun. The inspector praised the welcoming feel of the museum and how it promoted the heritage of the district.

A grant of £1500 has been secured for the Museum from Renaissance in the Regions to purchase equipment to improve how we monitor the environment the collections are displayed in. The Museum has also submitted an application for funding of £25,000 per year (for three years) under the new Arts Council 'Regional Museums Core Funding scheme'. The bid has been supported by a wide range of Museums across the East of England region which value the programme the Epping

Forest Museum has been running under the existing scheme, funding for which ends on 31 March 2012. Decisions around the new scheme will be known by the end of January

A report was presented to Cabinet Committee on 5 December seeking Cabinet approval to enter a shared service arrangement for the management of Broxbourne Borough Council's Lowewood Museum in Hoddesdon. Epping Forest Museum was approached in spring this year with a request to undertake the management of Lowewood following the retirement of Museum staff in January 2012. The benefits for EFDC will include the opportunity to develop the exhibitions programme that will subsequently be displayed at Lowewood, wider opportunities of securing external funding and staff development. If the proposal goes ahead, this will be under a Service Level Agreement from February 2012.

The Museum has a number of Christmas events taking place including a 'Festive food' event on Saturday 3 and 10 December as part of the run up to the holiday period.