

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF LEISURE TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 JULY 2007
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.15 PM**

Members Present: Mrs H Harding (Chairman), , S Murray, Mrs P K Rush, P Turpin, Ms J Hedges, P House, H Ulkun and Mrs J H Whitehouse

Other members present:

Apologies for Absence: Mrs P Brooks, Mrs R Gadsby, Mrs A Haigh, G Pritchard and B Rolfe (Epping Town Council)

Officers Present D Macnab (Head of Leisure Services), J Chandler (Community and Cultural Services Manager), Mrs L MacNeill (Assistant Head of Leisure Services) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

Also in attendance:

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted that Councillor Mrs J Whitehouse would be substituting for Councillor Mrs A Haigh.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Panel noted there were no declarations of interest.

3. TOPICS UNDER REVIEW AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The panel agreed the four topics areas identified by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that is:

- i) The future management options for Waltham Abbey Sports Centre;
- ii) The review of future Arts Development in the district;
- iii) To evaluate the success of the Council's youth Initiatives Scheme; and
- iv) To review the opportunities presented by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Terms of Reference:

The Panel considered the draft terms of reference. They asked for a presentation on Arts Development in the District (item 2) to bring them up to speed as to what the district currently provides in this area.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Terms of Reference be agreed and that a presentation of Arts Development in the district be arranged for a future meeting.

4. SCOPE OF REVIEW

a) Future Management of Waltham Abbey Sports Centre

The Panel noted that since the Cabinet considered the Task and Finish Panel Report in March 2007, further meetings and dialogue have taken place with the Head Teacher and Bursar of King Harold Secondary School. In the meantime a new dual use agreement and timetable had been drafted, this would be brought to the next meeting.

The Panel thought it would be useful to have a guided tour of the centre.

b) Feasibility of Alternative Arts Development and Delivery for the District

The Panel noted that Leisure officers had undertaken some initial research with other Authorities who have outsourced or bought in arts development services. At a future meeting of the panel, a set of key objectives and proposed methodology for the Arts Review will be presented for the Panel's consideration, along with a presentation focussing on the current activity and policy of Epping Forest Arts, for the benefit of new members. It was stressed by the Panel they had to clearly define their key objectives for this review. They also asked that a closer look be taken at the future sustainability of external funded arts agencies and specific project work, in light of the reductions in mainstream funding through the Arts Council. It was noted that all arts providers, whether local authority, voluntary or charitable organisations currently access funding from the same sources.

Councillor Mrs Whitehouse commented that the profile of the Epping Forest Arts should be raised and its connection as part of the District Council be made clearer. At present it seems to be a separate entity from the Council and not part of it.

c) Evaluation of Youth Initiatives Scheme

It was noted that that the District Development funding of £300,000 was allocated at a level of approximately £100,000 per annum for three years.

The Panel noted that Chris Overend, the Policy and Research Officer, deals with grants. He would be asked to the next meeting to give further information on the background and to outline the options available.

The Panel also noted that a district Play Strategy and Funding application to the Big Lottery Fund was currently being developed by Leisure Services, in conjunction with a range of partners, which if successful, would unlock £243,871 funding for Play facilities in the district. Preparation for this had included a district wide audit and extensive consultation with the public regarding the need for new and improved play facilities and opportunities, and it was suggested that this information could be used as a basis for any future decision making on a youth initiatives fund.

The Panel queried the way the procurement of play equipment was undertaken locally and suggested that economies could be made if one play provider could be sourced, working not only to the District Council but also to the Parish and Town Councils?

It was noted that if members of the Panel wanted to visit sites they should do so on their own, and if they thought it necessary they could have an officer accompany them.

d) Review of the Opportunities presented by the London 2012 Olympics & Paralympics Games.

The Panel were each given a copy of the Essex Action Plan, which outlined the steps that needed to be taken to acquire and keep the economic benefits offered by the Olympic and Paralympics games.

It was noted that the Essex Business Link is looking to bring companies together in the area by way of an Olympic Business Breakfast, presenting procurement opportunities.

There may be scope for the possible use of the North Weald Airfield during the games, either as a base for business flights for the games, or a park and ride facility, or to use it as a camping site for people who wish to visit the games.

The Panel also received a blank Performa from Essex CC for 'Endorsement of Action Plan' in which costed ideas could be set out for activities and projects to be carried out in the run up to and during the period of the games.

A presentation was then given to the Panel on the proposed major collaborative projects to celebrate the Games in the District involving children and young people, by Julie Chandler the Community and Cultural Services Manager. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

At the end of the presentation the Panel members put the following comments and questions.

Councillor Ulkun commented that as there are a lot of countries involved in the Olympics, could the District adopt a country or two, preferably a country that has some historical connection with Essex. The Council could get kids involved and generate interest from local people or commercial interest. At the Sydney games each district adopted a country.

Councillor Murray expressed his view that if EFDC wished to plan ahead for 2012, then the Council should start communicating with the major partners as soon as possible. If we are going to do a good job then we should really go for option 3 as presented to us, spread over 5 years this would not be so expensive.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel endorsed option 3 that:

There would be an annual programme within the existing Leisure budget, plus two large spectator events at an estimated expenditure of:

Year 1 - £20k to Launch Event

Year 5 - £50k Mini-Olympics

5. WORK PROGRAMME

The draft work programme was agreed by the Panel and is attached to the minutes.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following dates were agreed:

09 August 2007,
18 September 2007,
31 October 2007 and
27 November 2007.



Epping Forest District
Cultural Olympiad

*Proposal for a Celebration of Community Life
in the Epping Forest District 2008 - 2012*

The National Context

LOCOG launched an update of the National Cultural Olympiad in June:

“ The London Olympic games will be more than London, more than sport and more than the summer of 2012. They return to Pierre De Coubertin’s original vision of Culture, sport and education uniting in celebration” .

- The Cultural Olympiad is an integral part of London 2012 vision, allowing people to take part in cultural events and celebrations in every London community and all around the UK. The public launch of the Cultural Olympiad will happen in 2008, with commencement of events and activities in August

Some of the Cultural Olympiad Objectives:

- Integration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games into a single cultural programme;
- Inspire and involve the widest range of London and UK – wide communities;
- Generate sustainable long-term benefits to our cultural life
- Create outstanding moments of creative excellence across the full range of performing arts and creative industries;
- Enhance the learning, skills and personal development of young people;
- and much more.....

Cultural Olympiad Values:

- Celebrate London and the whole of the UK – our unique internationalism, cultural diversity, sharing and understanding;
- Inspire and involve young people;
- Generate a positive legacy through: cultural and sports participation; audience development; cultural skills; capacity building; urban regeneration; tourism and improved social cohesion

How could Epping Forest District
meet this challenge?

Epping Forest 2012?

A proposed celebration of life in Epping Forest District 2008 – 2012, incorporating activities, events and programmes of work with people of all ages and abilities within local communities in the district.

What are the benefits for the Council and its' residents in delivering a Cultural Olympiad?

- Social interaction within communities & reduced isolation of individuals/groups
- Increased self esteem and confidence in all involved
- Opportunities for Education & Learning
- Improved employability of young people involved in initiatives
- Positive community attitudes and reduction in fear of crime
- Health improvement opportunities for local residents
- **Positive** profiling of the Council's Services



Leisure Services Proposal...

Delivery of a coordinated 5 year programme of events and activities commencing August 2008, with potential for a major participant and spectator launch event at Metropolitan Police Ground, Chigwell, in September 2008.

Year 1 - Celebration of the Olympics

- Design an Epping Forest 2012 Brand competition
- Development of an Epping Forest Olympic Torch
- Historical themed programmes – Ancient and Modern Olympics; Chariot building, customised wheelchairs; Grecian Olympia, displays of replica sports equipment
- Paralympic sports event
- Olympic Art: photography, digital documentation & evaluation
- Mass choreographic workshop
- Lantern walks
- Performances & Poetry competitions

Year 2 - Green & Unique

'A celebration of Epping Forest District'

Linked directly to the Council Plan and Community Strategy...

- Mini - events in and around Epping Forest; storytelling; free running; led walks; 'philosophy in the woods', Victorian 'waterholes'; history of speedway (High Beach),
- Heritage trails – heritage buildings and 'sites'
- Celebration of local artists eg. Pissarro, Spradbury
- Life in rural areas and 'rural culture'
- Animation of 'green spaces' and animated walks
- Guided 'Shelter' building (Play based)
- Cultural tourism
- Wider tourism

Partners to include Corporation of London, EF Field Study Centre, Parish and Town Councils, EF Country Care



Year 3 – Fit For Life

‘A celebration of Community Well-being’

Work will be based in community settings across the district and will focus on mental, physical and social health improvement for people of all ages and abilities....

- Promotion of Green Exercise – allotments; gardening; maintenance of woodland and nature reserves (with Country Care)
- Cycling, walking, buggy power walks
- Victorian PE and dietary habits
- Dancing for health – dance marathon, tea dancing
- Intergenerational physical activity
- Reminiscence work with elderly people unable to access other opportunities



Year 4 – A celebration of Culture at the ‘Heart of Communities’

The focus for 2011 will be to help ‘shape’ local Communities, to improve community cohesion and spirit.

Establishment of community

‘singing’ groups

Celebration of local culture:

dancing, bell ringing (‘rap’ style),
knitting/handicrafts

Encouragement of intergenerational
Play

Youth – led activities

Cultural Roadshow and Community
Festivals

Street Carnivals



Year 5 – Epping Forest 2012

- Work to be undertaken with primary schools to train teams to compete in a Mini- Olympics event to be held at Ongar Leisure Centre during May 2012.
- Community based workshops and activities staged including: cheerleading; team banner/flag making; costume design; mascot design
- Training provided for secondary school students and New Horizons members in marshalling/umpiring events
- Training and choreography (sports acrobatics, drama, dance) for opening and closing ceremonies – based within local communities
- Music production - singing/choirs/bands etc
- District floral/bedding displays

Annual programme will culminate in a major 2 x day participant and audience event?

At what financial cost?

- All activities and programmes of work now earmarked in Leisure forward planning for 2008 – 2012, therefore reducing annual costs significantly. (Only additional costs would be for community based events).
- Potential application to be submitted for Lottery funding in 2008, to support the annual programme and major events in Years 1 and 5
- DDF allocation by Council for the Launch and 2012 event?



Outline Costs for a 5 year cultural programme in Epping Forest

- **Option 1** - Annual programme

Within existing Leisure budgets, plus small funding bids to value of Approx. 15K

Option 2 – Above, plus:
v small scale participant & spectator events:

Year 1 - 10k

Year 5 - 25k

Option 3 = Option 1 plus two large spectator events:

Year 1 - 20k Launch Event

Year 5 - 50k Mini-Olympics



Epping 2012 Summary

Leisure Services is prepared to deliver a unique and exciting Cultural Olympiad for the residents of the district, which can meet the Council's aspirations in terms of positive community profile and improving the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities living in the district.

The programme of work would provide opportunities for significant community cohesion and reduction of 'fear of crime' through intergenerational working, as well as generating good community spirit and a pride in communities.

A Cultural Olympiad is an ideal way to build upon the many strong partnerships that the Council has with local statutory and voluntary agencies and would meet the Council's objectives and performance indicators as stated in the Council Plan.

Epping Forest 2012

Julie Chandler
Community & Cultural Services Manager

Leisure Services 01992 564214

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Task and Finish Panels			
Leisure Services –			
Item	Report Deadline / Priority	Progress / Comments	Programme of Future Meetings
Methodology for evaluation of outdoor youth facilities initiative. Draft dual-use agreement and timetable for Waltham Abbey Sports Centre.	End July for 9 August meeting	Underway: Consultation undertaken with King Harold High School. Awaiting Governing Bodies views	9 August, 18 September, 31 October and 27 November
Methodology and options for alternative delivery of arts development/agreement of key objectives. Consideration of Olympic Legacy Local Action Plan.	Beginning September for 18 September meeting.		

<p>Feedback of results of evaluation on youth facilities initiative/ agree recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny. Progress report on feedback from King Harold School /agree provisional tender timetable if appropriate.</p>	<p>Mid October for 31 October meeting</p>		
<p>Review initial expressions of interest from alternative arts providers.</p>	<p>Mid November for 27 November meeting.</p>		