

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF LEISURE TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 9 AUGUST 2007
IN TRAINING ROOM, 25 HEMNALL STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.32 PM**

Members Present: Mrs H Harding (Chairman), , Mrs P K Rush, P Turpin, Mrs A Haigh, Ms J Hedges, G Pritchard, B Rolfe (Epping Town Council), H Ulkun and Mrs J H Whitehouse

Other members present:

Apologies for Absence: Mrs P Brooks, S Murray and Mrs R Gadsby

Officers Present D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), J Chandler (Community and Cultural Services Manager), L MacNeill (Assistant Head of Leisure Services), C Overend (Policy & Research Officer) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

8. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted that Councillor Mrs J Whitehouse would be substituting for Councillor Mrs P Brooks.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Panel noted there were no declarations of interest.

10. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING - 5 JULY 2007

The minutes of 5 July 2007 were noted and agreed as a correct record.

11. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference were noted and agreed.

12. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA

With the meetings approval the order of the agenda was changed so that the evaluation of the Youth Initiatives Scheme was taken as the next item.

13. EVALUATION OF YOUTH INITIATIVES SCHEME

The Policy and Research Officer introduced the item on the Youth Initiative Scheme explaining that it was initially set up to reduce anti-social behaviour. He emphasised that it was not an exact science and that it was the Panel's task to recommend how they would like to monitor the Scheme. He had put forward a number of suggestions in the report as to how the monitoring could be carried out but there were other possibilities. They could for example consult Housing Services on the tenant's issues raised or the Police on how they view the scheme. They may be able to compare situations and incidences in the area both pre and post scheme implementation

They would need to take into account the views of the young people concerned, the local residents and the local Parish or Town councillors. There would be difficulties in comparing figures for anti social behaviour between different areas; had they declined because of the scheme or for other reasons. Getting meaningful figures would not be easy but overall impressions may be able to be gained.

The officer had undertaken visits to most of the schemes and had drawn up a short report on what he witnessed. He observed that members might wish to visit the schemes themselves.

Councillor Mrs Haigh commented that the official figures say that there had been a decline in anti social behaviour but the general perception has been that there has been an increase. How could a successful scheme be defined? The Policy and Research Officer said they would need a range of indicators, such as who uses it and when and what time of day.

Councillor Pritchard commented that the Councillors could each visit the schemes in their own area and perhaps speak to the youths there on what they thought about it. The Policy and Research Officer said they needed to know the impact on the anti-social behaviour and if the youths were from that area or elsewhere. The Deputy Chief Executive observed that they needed a benchmark to work to, but in the absence of one they may have to rely on anecdotal evidence. It would be useful to know what the Town and Parish Councillors feel about the process, the funding and advice given. Did they get what they wanted? The facilities would have a shelf life, what are they doing to update them? It was also important to hear what the youths had to say. Julie Chandler, the Community and Cultural Services Manager, may be able to help via the Play Strategy. She said that they could include questions on this and also tie it in with the Youth Council's work.

The Assistant Head of Leisure Services commented that each local council must have had an expectation of what they expected as an outcome of the scheme as well as the scheme itself and they should be able to tell us if they had been achieved or there was still the potential for it to be achieved. Councillor Mrs Harding said she could ask her Parish Council for feedback on this. Perhaps the other members could ask their Parish or Town Councils and report back to this Panel.

ACTION: That members ask their local Council whether they thought they had achieved what they wanted from their local youth initiative scheme, and report back to this Panel.

The Deputy Chief Executive agreed that they could do that and that officers could contact the other Town and Parish Councils not covered by members on this Panel to get some feed back from them. There was still the need to establish how the Panel could engage with the young people themselves, perhaps through site visits.

The Assistant Head of Leisure Services said they could contact local schools and ask them if they could fill out a questionnaire. Perhaps use each school's School Council or get senior students to do this as a project. There should be a range of ways used to collect information. Councillor Mrs Haigh added that members could link into local ward councillors so that there was a local link. It was noted that there would be a need for protocol advice on child protection issues for the Panel before they undertake the collection of information from young people.

ACTION:

- i. That local schools are contacted and a questionnaire be distributed for the School Council or senior students to act upon.
- ii. That members link with local Parish or Town ward councillors.
- iii. And that there was a need for protocol advice on child protection issues for the Panel before they undertake the collection of information from young people.

14. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF WALTHAM ABBEY SPORTS CENTRE

The Deputy Chief Executive filled in the background to this item. Officers have been in communication with the head teacher and the head of the school governors. They are now more aware of what private management of the centre would involve. A new contract will need to be drawn up between the School and the District Council. A draft agreement has been drawn up with the help of our legal services and a list of the contract principles was appended to the agenda for the panel's information.

The Assistant Head of Leisure reminded the Panel that legally from September, everything goes back to the school. An extension would be agreed to cover the period between then and the time when a new agreement could be signed. It would be recommended that the agreement would last for a period of 20 years. She then took the Panel through the draft joint use agreement.

The Panel noted that:

- a) The District Council could appoint a contractor for any period that it saw fit to do so, it would probably be for a seven-year period.
- b) When the District Council signs with the School a third party contractor does not have to be agreed as the Council would undertake its responsibilities direct.
- c) That guidance for Children and Staff in educational setting came out in 2006 and this would have to be taken into account when looking at the interaction between the Council and school usage times.
- d) That the School would be looking at refurbishment of the school in six years time and this would need to be taken into account in the document to safeguard the Council.
- e) That the Governing Body could make changes to the facility without the prior consent of the Council; this clause will be changed to recommend that the Council's permission is required.
- f) There can be enhancement but detail of a particular project would be put as a separate proposal to the Governing Body and would be treated as a separate project be agreed with the School.
- g) A time of year will need to be agreed for when a budget is agreed, also how the budgets are divided up will need to be decided.
- h) There is a need to agree what responsibilities each party would have and who funds what with regards to maintenance and the wording on this is being worked on by officers at the moment. There is also a DDA issue.
- i) The timetable dates are indicative but dependent on when the document is finalised and when agreement is achieved with the school.

15. ARTS PRESENTATION

The Community and Cultural Services Manager gave the Panel a short presentation on the overview of the current work of the Council's Arts Service. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

After the presentation the Community and Cultural Services Manager was asked if any evaluation was done to identify if these projects helps to cut down on anti-social behaviour. She replied that it was difficult to identify, they do however focus on 'hot spots' with the Police and have noticed that anti-social behaviour had reduced slightly. Also project evaluations are completed on each scheme.

Councillor Mrs Haigh said she had noted that our arts section was highly regarded and had received praise from all over the country.

It was noted that the arts would be discussed more fully at the next meeting of the Panel.

16. WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel noted the work programme for the coming meetings.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following were agreed:

18 September 2007 (to be held at the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre)
31 October 2007 and
27 November 2007.

Epping Forest Arts

Epping Forest Council's Arts Development Service

Julie Chandler Community & Cultural Services Manager



Arts Background

- The Council has provided an Arts service in the district since 1974
- In the late 1980's the Arts section was expanded, to meet the government's agenda for improving community sustainability through provision of arts development work.
- Due to its' innovative work Epping Forest Arts is one of the most highly regarded arts delivery services in the within the County and Region.
- The Arts Council (England East) has acknowledged the innovative work that is delivered through Epping Forest Arts, by providing significant project funding for the district since 2001. £75,000 was secured in 2006, to develop a three-year programme of projects and events that explore and celebrate the District's community, history, heritage and environment

Arts programme

- Dance development
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Music
- Live Art
- Film
- Multi media
- Crafts & Painting
- Festivals
- Celebratory Events

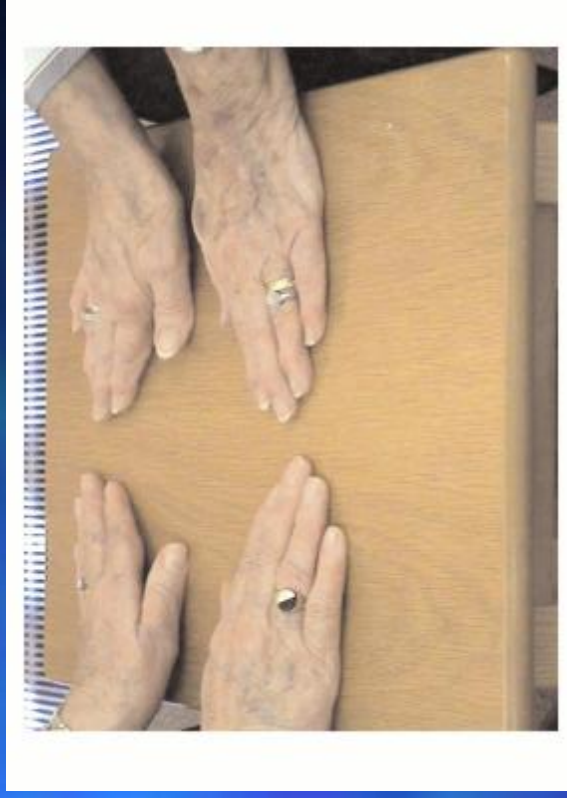


Work with Young People

- **Urban Street Dance** – regular weekly dance classes for boys and girls 12 yrs+ based on the latest street dance styles
- **‘Reaction’ & ‘Fuzion’** – targeted at boys and girls 12 – 16yrs across the range of secondary schools, to bring youngsters together to tackle issues of hostility between school groups, using 3 different dance styles with separate gender groups
- **‘Motiv8’** – dance development project for 6 – 18yr olds culminating in showcase at Debden Park School
- **‘eNgage’** – dance development project for 5 – 20 yrs+ culminating in a performance at Harlow Playhouse
- **‘Isadora’** – Dance development project with youngsters at Wells Park and Oakview Schools
- **Local Dance Groups** – weekly dance groups introduced by EFA and sustained through training volunteers and parents to lead and deliver sessions
- **‘Sense of Place’** – work with young people in key localities of disadvantage in the district

Work with adults and the elderly.....

- 'Arts Alert' — specially designed dance, movement and visual arts programme for adults with special needs from 18 yrs through to 50+, based at Epping Forest College. Workshops culminating in performance.



- 'Sense of Place' — dance and visual arts cross - generational programme, bringing young people and the elderly together in a range of projects to 'break down barriers'. Focuses on Residential Care homes in the district and work linked to local schools

Summer Arts Programme

- 'Lift Off' – acting , dancing and arts skills sessions for 8 – 12 year olds.
- 'Havoc' – circus skills workshop and arts activities for 3 years+
- Theatre Performances – for 2-5 yrs and 4 – 8 yrs
- 'Jammin' – dance workshops for 9 –12 yrs
- 'Mini-madness' – dance, drama and arts & crafts for 3 years+
- 'Pandemonium' – performances, arts & crafts, fun activity day for 3 yrs+
- 'Bugtastic' – bug hunting, pond dipping and games and art
- 'Beach in a box' – summer holiday activity for 3 – 5 years
- 'Arty Antics' – clay making workshops for 6 – 8 years

Other work areas.....

- Administration and management of Epping Forest Music Schools
- Advice and support to local voluntary organisations and local artists
- Management of Small Grants Scheme for the Arts
- Community based arts and environmental events
- Production of Arts Inform – district wide arts activity and events publication
- Provision of specialist advice to internal and external partners
- Strategic partnership working throughout the county, including Essex On Tour and Essex Book Festival
- Representation and participation in Essex Arts Officers group



Delivering local and national priorities

The arts development work undertaken by the Arts Team fulfils a wide range of Council and government targets and in particular through improving community cohesion and promoting an enhanced quality of life for local residents as individuals and in group settings.

Council Plan:

- ⑩ provision of opportunities to engage and consult with local people and communities that would not normally 'have a voice' (Action EP4, IP4)
- ⑩ engagement of young people in positive activities, including a focus on boys sessions (Action HN5, SC2/3)
- ⑩ provision of outreach programmes in targeted localities of the District (action HN5, SC2/3, FL2, EP5)
- ⑩ delivery of programmes and projects that encourage people of all ages to lead healthier lives (SC3, FL3)
- ⑩ respond to issues of deprivation in the district through providing accessible programmes(FL3)
- ⑩ delivery of customer focused services which meet the needs and aspirations of the diverse communities of the district (EP5)
- ⑩ reducing 'fear of crime', through intergenerational work (SC3)

Continued.....

Community Strategy:

- ⑩ improving people's lives through enabling access for all
- ⑩ delivering services in order to help people live healthier and more enjoyable lives
- ⑩ ensuring services for children and young people are directed by the needs of the individual
- ⑩ encouraging people to improve their physical and mental health through partnership working

CPA and the 'Culture Block':

- ⑩ strengthening, building sustainable communities
- ⑩ reduction in social isolation improved social integration/ pride in neighbourhoods
- ⑩ development of capacities
- ⑩ vehicles for socially marginalised groups to articulate concerns
- ⑩ potential to improve employability of people, through increased confidence and specific skills, professional development/transferable skills
- ⑩ regeneration through involvement, communication and exploring meaning

Partners worked with 2006/07

Hereward Primary	Alter Ego Dance Co	Playhouse Theatre – Harlow
Alderton Junior & Infant	Moves & Grooves – dance group	Roxane Permar – visual artist
Epping Upland	Chipping Ongar Primary	Anne Eggebert – visual artist
IC Youth Dance	Funksters – dance group	Carl Stevenson – visual artist
Limes Farm Infant	Debden Youth Dance	Emily Jost – visual artist
Upshire Primary	Debden Park High	St Clare's Hospice
Mad Movers – dance group	Roding Valley High	Epping Upland CE Primary
Thomas Willingale Junior	Holy Cross Junior	Theydon Bois Primary
Roding Valley High	King Harold High	Roydon Primary
West Hatch High	St John's High	Shelley Primary
Kofi Agyemang – dance artist	Parsonage Court	Theatre Resource
Hip Hop Collective	Sherrell House	Matching Green Primary
Flowzaic Dance Co	WRVS	Jiving Lindy Hoppers
Hip Hop Dance Co	Loughton Cricket Club	Troika Ranch – dance co
Barbara Sampson – visual artist	Mad Maureen – clown	
Moreton Primary	Juliet Orchart – music artist	

Partners cont....

Roydon Open Garden Day
Theydon Bois Open Garden Day
Theydon Bois Horticultural Society
Budworth Hall
Ashlyns Organic Farm
Honeytree Court
Redbrick Nursery
Matthews Plants
Jubilee Court
Leonard Davis House
Pelly Court
Oakview School
Dino Jacovides – creative writer
Ivy Chimneys Junior
Lambourne Primary
Epping Green Association
Davenant Foundation School

Parish Councils: Loughton, Epping, Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill, Ongar, Bobbingworth & The Lavers, Epping Green /Upland, Stapleford Abbots /Tawney, Moreton, Roydon, North Weald
Essex on Tour
Essex Book Festival
Chigwell Library
Countrycare
Loughton Library
Ongar Library
Epping Library
Buckhurst Hill Library
Debden Library
Metropolitan Police Club
Yolande Chandler – dance artist
Michael Szpakowski – visual/sound artist

Bangers & Mash Theatre Co
Ballet First
Focus – Essex Dance
Youth in Action – Walthamstow
Cambridgeshire Youth Dance Co
Obelon Arts
Claire Levinson – visual artist
Dina Williams – dance artist
Epping Forest College
Epping Youth & Adult Centre
Mark Storer – visual artist
North Weald Library
Waltham Abbey Library
Dance East – Ipswich
Braintree College
Stapleford Abbots Primary

Summary

Epping Forest Arts currently provides a wide range of arts programmes for children, young people, the elderly and those with additional needs

- 7127 people have taken part in Epping Forest Arts activities in 2006/07 (to date)
- 6241 of these are children and young people
- This represents 27% of the district population aged 3- 18 years
- The following 5 minute DVD demonstrates a typical piece of EFA work, which was undertaken with young people on Limes Farm Estate, Chigwell.