

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 30 October 2007

Subject: Leisure and Young People

Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Cohen

Item: 5

Recommending:

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

Although Leisure Services have enjoyed another successful summer with respect to the delivery of a wide range of Leisure and Cultural Opportunities across the District, it has not been without incident. As you will see from other reports on the agenda, in relation to the incident at Roding Valley Lake, damage to the infrastructure at North Weald Airfield and the theft of lead from Ongar Leisure Centre Roof.

World Scout Jamboree

On a positive note the Council was privileged to play a vital role in support of the biggest Youth Event ever staged in this Country, the World Scout Jamboree. Due to pressure of space at the main camp site at Hylands Park, North Weald Airfield served as the main off site logistic hub for the event, through which the 80,000 participants and 10,000 Daily Visitors were processed. This involved the daily transfer of people and equipment by a fleet of some 250 buses, which were parked securely on site at North Weald Airfield overnight. In addition, a large food processing operation was established at the Airfield, where produce was prepared, again prior to transfer to Chelmsford. The professional way in which EFDC Staff facilitated the event, has once again demonstrated the tremendous potential of North Weald Airfield to support major events, potentially playing a role in the 2012 Olympics.

Summer Festival

With respect to provision for your local young people, in addition to Leisure's summer sports, arts and playscheme programme for 3 – 11 year olds, the Community Development team provided an exciting district programme for young people aged 11 – 19 years. This was delivered in conjunction with a range of local partners including ECC Youth Service, CDRP, Nacro, VAEF, West Essex PCT, Drugline and Roding Valley Arts. Activities ranged from nail art and hair braiding through to 'free running' and graffiti art, and were provided in a range of locations in Waltham Abbey, Loughton, Chigwell (Limes Farm) and Epping.

Most sessions were well attended and, in particular, the 'free running' which was a clear success with all sessions being full to capacity. In addition, special Summer Fest Roadshow events were held in each of the areas, to enable young people to

sample a number of free activities. Evening music events were held in Loughton and at Limes Farm, involving young, local bands. The music event staged in Loughton was particularly successful with 120 young people attending. In total the Summer Fest programme comprised of 58 workshops and events and attracted approximately 600 young people across the District.

Youth Council

As per the article included in the Members' Bulletin 28th September, and subject to final approval by Cabinet in November, staff from Leisure Services, Democratic Services and Public Relations, have now arranged for a local youth election to take place in the District this Autumn/Winter.

The election will be supported by local secondary school head teachers, school council staff and Epping Forest College. Each secondary school in the district plus Epping Forest College have been allocated two Youth Councillor positions, and a further 5 positions will be available to nominees residing in the district who do not go to School in the District.

A timeframe for institution of the Youth Council has now been agreed which will see an election process commence in early December. Ballot boxes will be collected from schools and the college on 17th December and the count will be held at the Civic Offices on Tuesday 18th, with the results being announced at Full Council.

It is anticipated that the first meeting of Epping Forest Youth Council will take place in early January 2008 and a series of training and induction sessions will follow this.