



Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Report of: Acting Scrutiny Officer
Date: 8th September 2005
Open

Update on Skateboarding Scrutiny Review and Youth Provision Scrutiny Review

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing paper is to update Members on the progress of the Skateboarding Task and Finish Group and the Youth Provision Task and Finish Group.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Panel's original Skateboarding report and recommendations were submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 16th December 2004. (*CM.416 from the Minutes of the Panel's meeting on 11th November 2004 refers to the Recommendations in detail*). The Cabinet agreed there had been insufficient information in the original Skateboarding report. A more in depth Scrutiny had been requested so it was referred to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee to consider at its meeting on 26th January 2005, which requested that further consultation be undertaken by the Group. (*Minute CM.686 refers*). Consequently, the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel considered the issue at its meeting on 10th March 2005. (*Minute CM.813 refers*). It was noted that the original Task and Finish Group had been short of time and had been unable to look at the issue in great depth, thus a strategic overview had been undertaken.
- 2.2 At the meeting of the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 14th July 2005, Members completed a scoping form. The Panel agreed to form two Task and Finish Groups, one to concentrate on Skateboarding and the other to look at the District's Youth Provision in general.

- 2.3 The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services had indicated that there was no formal deadline for the Panel to report back to Cabinet with its proposed recommendations. This would enable the two Task and Finish Groups to have plenty of time to investigate each issue carefully and present two reports to a future meeting of the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel.

3. Skateboarding Task and Finish Group

- 3.1 The following Members comprise the Skateboarding Task and Finish Group:

- Councillor Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis
- Councillor Mrs P V Hayward
- Councillor Mrs R L Lewis
- Councillor M J Shellie
- Councillor K J Stokes

- 3.2 At the Group's first meeting on 22nd July 2005, the Group:

- Elected a Chairman (Councillor K J Stokes)
- Agreed its terms of reference, as follows:
 - a) To identify Skateboarding requirements within the District
 - b) To analyse the current usage of Skateboard facilities at Borrington Road/Shawhedge Road/Brinton Park
 - c) To ascertain whether demand for Skateboarding within the District is increasing or decreasing
 - d) To research national trends
 - e) To identify the future role of 'The Fun Box' (mobile skateboarding unit)

- 3.3 The Group also:

- Considered location plans identifying current skate parks
- Reviewed a report by Tribe Enterprises Ltd, which assessed various locations in the District for permanent skateboarding facilities
- Discussed the current role of the 'Fun Box'. The equipment was originally provided as a short-term solution until permanent facilities were provided.
- Considered possible site options.

- 3.4 The consensus of the Group was that it was necessary to identify the need for a skate-park in the District in order for future funding to be secured. The Task and Finish Group would need to investigate the popularity and actual demand for skateboarding, what size skate-park would be needed and what the end-users' requirements would be.

3.5 The following actions were agreed:

- The Cultural Services Manager to report back on trends affecting skateboarding, and demographics of the District.
- Details of figures and costs relating to the Fun Box to be provided, and the Fun Box's summer programme be circulated to Members.

3.6 The Group will consider contacting the following participants as part of its review:

- Wyre Forest Youth Strategy Group and Skateboarding Sub-Group
- Community Housing Group (formerly Wyre Forest Community Housing)
- Stourport Forward
- Police
- Youth Service
- Young People Forum
- Users of the Fun Box
- Councillor N J Desmond, Cabinet Member, Community and Leisure Services
- Residents and Users of the District's skateboarding facilities.

3.7 The following background documents are being considered as part of the review:

Previous Minute Extracts:

- C&LS P&S Panel - 11th November 2004 (*Minute CM.416 refers*)
- Cabinet - 16th December 2004 (*Minute CM.580 refers*)
- C&LS P&S Panel - 6th January 2005 (*Minute CM.612 refers*)
- Cabinet Scrutiny Committee - 26th January 2005 (*Minute CM.686 refers*).
- Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel - 10th March 2005. (*Minute CM.813 refers*)
- Tribe Enterprises Ltd - Skate Park Report and Recommendations for Wyre Forest District Council (2003)
- 'Youthink' Survey dated October 2004, which gives a wide perspective of young people's thinking on a number of quality life issues

3.8 The Group has arranged its second meeting for Tuesday 6th September 2005.

4. Youth Provision Task and Finish Group

4.1 The following Members comprise the Youth Provision Task and Finish Group:

- Councillor J Baker
- Councillor Mrs H E Dyke
- Councillor R Wheway

4.2 At the Group's first meeting on 28th July 2005, the Group:

- Elected a Chairman (Councillor R Wheway)
- Agreed its terms of reference, as follows:

To identify general Youth Opportunities within the District (particularly regarding 14 to 18 year olds).

4.3 The Group also had a discussion on general youth opportunities within the District, and the clear need to consider disabled facilities within the review.

4.4 The following actions were agreed:

- The Cultural Services Manager to provide evidence on demographics and to provide an audit of the Council's current facilities.
- The Community Safety Officer and Cultural Services Manager to provide information on the District's diversionary activities.
- The Chairman to provide any useful background information in his role as a consultant for children's play.
- Youth Strategy Groups/Teen Zones
- Funding: e.g. Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Development Fund, possible external funding sources.

4.5 The Group will consider contacting the following participants as part of its review:

- Wyre Forest Youth Strategy Group
- Community Housing Group (formerly Wyre Forest Community Housing)
- Local voluntary and community groups
- Community safety officers
- Police
- Youth Service
- Young People's Forum
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- The Council's Parks Patrol Officers/Rangers

- Oldington and Foley Park Network
- Councillor N J Desmond, Cabinet Member, Community and Leisure Services

4.5 The following background documents are being considered as part of the review:

Previous Minute Extracts:

- C&LS P&S Panel - 11th November 2004 (*Minute CM.416 refers*)
- Cabinet - 16th December 2004 (*Minute CM.580 refers*)
- C&LS P&S Panel - 6th January 2005 (*Minute CM.612 refers*)
- Cabinet Scrutiny Committee - 26th January 2005 (*Minute CM.686 refers*).
- Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel - 10th March 2005. (*Minute CM.813 refers*)
- 'You Think' Survey dated October 2004, which gives a wide perspective of young people's thinking on a number of quality life issues
- Community Safety - Diversionary Activities (*Scrutiny report from Worcestershire County Council dated March 2005*)
- Diversionary Activities in Wyre Forest (*Document from the Community Safety Officer*)
- Results from the Hear by Right Survey from the National Youth Agency (NYA) - July 2005. (The survey sought information on organisations' awareness and use of Hear by Right (HbR), the NYA/Local Government Association standards for the active involvement of children and young people in decision-making and local democracy)

4.6 The Group has arranged its second and third meetings for Wednesday 7th September and Tuesday 18th October, 2005.

Officer Contact Details:

Heather Jones,
Acting Scrutiny Officer,
01562 732733.
Heather.jones@wyreforestdc.gov.uk