

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

SERVICE POLICY PANEL

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET, KIDDERMINSTER

19TH SEPTEMBER 2006 (6.00PM)

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Holden (Chairman), M J Shellie (Vice-Chairman), P Dyke, Mrs S M Hayward, Mrs R L Lewis, Miss M A Mason, C D Nicholls, Mrs J L Salter, M A Salter, D R Sheppard, K J Stokes, G C Yarranton.

OBSERVERS:

Councillors: J Aston, J-P Campion, N J Desmond, Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis, M J Hart, Mrs A T Hingley and J A Shaw

SPP.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs H E Dyke and Miss S C Meekings

SPP.15 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

Councillor P Dyke was appointed as a substitute for Councillor Mrs H E Dyke. Councillor Mrs J A Salter was appointed as a substitute for Councillor Miss S C Meekings.

SPP.16 COMPOSITION AND ATTENDANCE OF PANEL

AGREED:

The attendance of the Panel, as per the Attendance Record Sheet appended to the Agenda be noted.

SPP.17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

SPP.18 MINUTES

AGREED:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

POSSIBLE PROVISION OF AN ICE RINK IN THE DISTRICT

The Panel considered a briefing paper from the Cultural Services Manager regarding the possible provision of an ice rink in the District.

The Cultural Services Manager reported that there were an estimated 36 ice rinks in England, she reported on the cost of building rinks, the upkeep and the revenue of the rinks. The substantial issue was location and it was noted that all ice rinks were either located in a city or a large town.

There were potential issues associated with the provision of an ice rink and these were:

- A revenue and capital budget needs to be identified.
- A suitable location needs to be established.
- Catchment area
- To examine the possibility of using a private operator

Members held a discussion on the provision of an ice rink and raised some of the following points.

- It was not fair to get hopes up if the funding was not likely to be achieved.
- It would be great to have an ice rink in Kidderminster but concerns were raised that the catchment area was not right.
- To make an ice rink viable, another sport should be linked to it, i.e. bowling alley.

Members thanked the Cultural Leisure Manager for her report and all the work that she had done.

The Cabinet member for Community and Leisure Services reported that having listened to the debate and the information that the Cultural Services Manager had provided, he was not sure what more a Task and Finish group could achieve. It could result in wasting officer time.

It was suggested by Members that as the public had been involved in this item and it had already been to full Council, it could go to Cabinet Scrutiny for a Task and Finish Group to be set up. The Chairman agreed to complete the Scoping Form, which would need to go to the Cabinet Scrutiny meeting on 19th October 2006. It was stressed, however, that the Task and Finish Group should only involve a small group of people. The Panel could not write this idea off without exploring the possibilities.

A vote was taken and it was agreed that a small task and finish be set up to look at possible private funding.

RECOMMENDED:

That a small Task and Finish Group be set by Cabinet Scrutiny Committee to look at possible private funding for an ice rink in the district.

SPP.20

LEISURE TOUR

The Cultural Services Manager reported that 16 members had attended the leisure tour of the district on 24th August 2006.

Members had visited The Glades Leisure Centre, St. Georges Park, Brinton Park and Redstone Marsh in Stourport, where for the first time this summer, action squads had taken place for youngsters aged 10 to 14, where the turnout was excellent. Members also visited Burlish Top, where they looked at the nature reserve and saw what the Conservation and Countryside Officer and his team had achieved. In the afternoon, members visited Bewdley Leisure Centre and Bewdley Museum where members were informed of the progress that had been made, in particular with the attendance figures. These had reached 42,000 by the end of June compared with 34,000 for the whole season last year. The tour then moved on to Borrington Road and members saw the multi activities provided for young people and how the play area was fully used.

Members thanked the Cultural Services Manager for an interesting tour.

AGREED:

The information be noted.

SPP.21

PROVISION OF MULTI-USE GAMES AREAS (MUGA'S)

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Cultural Services Manager regarding the provision of Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA's).

The Cultural Services Manager handed out a report on the summary of the consultations.

Members were informed that at the Cabinet meeting of 29th June 2006 an amount of £180,000 had been allocated for the provision of MUGA's. Since then a consultation exercise had been carried out to get views on possible locations for them.

The possible locations that were to be considered were:

1. Two MUGA's in Kidderminster - Spennells Playing Fields and White Wickets
2. One MUGA in Bewdley - Bewdley Leisure Centre or St Anne's School
3. One MUGA in Stourport-on-Severn - Areley Kings Recreation Ground, Memorial Park or Windmill First and Middle School.

The Cultural Services Manager gave a brief analysis on the summary of the consultation.

The County Council had indicated that it may be prepared to contribute to the MUGA's on school sites to upgrade them.

Members raised the following points:

1. The site at Windmill would be to everyone's advantage if it was supervised adequately and a good range of facilities was provided.
2. Rural areas also needed to be considered for future MUGA's.
3. It was good to see that Spennells had been considered as a possible location. A new play area would be wonderful but a message needed to be conveyed to all residents, that it would not be provided just for troublesome young people but available for all.

When considering the location of a MUGA for Bewdley, members were asked to consider the location of Bark Hill (for which a petition had been received from a Town Councillor), as well as Bewdley Leisure Centre and St Anne's School

It was agreed to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services the following:

AGREED:

The locations for two MUGA's for Kidderminster should be Spennells Playing Fields and White Wickets.

The location for a MUGA in Bewdley should be Bewdley Leisure Centre.

The location for a MUGA in Stourport should be Windmill First and Middle School.

SPP.22 TASK AND FINISH GROUP – MINI MOTORCYCLES

Councillor M J Shellie gave a verbal update on the progress on the Task and Finish Group – Mini Motorcycles.

He informed the Committee that a meeting had been held on 22nd August 2006 with Inspector Paul Crowley, Andrew Dickens and Lesley Fox. Inspector Crowley was gathering information from a recent PACT meeting, to identify how many residents had cited mini motorcycles as a problem.

Information was to hand from the Environment Agency from 1984 and 1988 with regard to pollution on the Bonemill site (a possible venue for mini motorcycles).

More information would be required from the Environment Agency before further progress could be made. A visit to the site would be arranged with the Task and Finish Group members and then a follow up meeting with planning officials. He informed members there were grant schemes available for assisting projects such as this, and one of particular note was DABID. He explained that he had been in touch with them and they were keen to help.

AGREED:

The information be noted.

SPP.23 **COUNTY COUNCIL'S HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor J Holden gave an update on the recent meeting of the County Council's Health and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Mr Michael O'Riordon had given a presentation on the financial performance for the current financial year. He agreed to keep members informed of progress.

A presentation had also been given by Mr Alan McMichael on out of hours dentistry in Worcestershire. Councillor Holden informed members that he had leaflets about this service and would circulate these to members.

AGREED:

- 1. The information be noted.**
- 2. The Changes to NHS Dentistry in Worcestershire leaflet be circulated to members.**

SPP.24 **REPORT OF THE HEALTH TASK GROUP**

Members considered a report from the Scrutiny/Committee Officer regarding the work of the Health Task Group which had been set up at Full Council on 19th April 2006.

AGREED:

The information be noted.

SPP.25 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel considered its work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.

The Community Safety & Partnerships Officer reported that she required the Annual Report for Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act to be added to the work programme for November 2006.

AGREED:

The Annual Report for Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act be added to the work programme for November 2006.

SPP.26 PRESS INVOLVEMENT

There was nothing to report.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.