

Community Leisure Working Party

held at Ryedale House, Malton
on Tuesday 12 August 2008

Present

Councillors: Mrs Cowling (in the Chair), Mrs Arnold, Mrs De Wend Fenton, Hemesley and Jackson.

In attendance

Mr J Wardby - Vice Chairman of Community Leisure Board
Mrs J Spenceley - Community Leisure Limited
Mr D Hannah - Matrix Consultants
Mrs L Mills - Community Leisure Limited

C Chatten, P Cresswell, Miss C Gaynor, Mrs J Holmes and D Summers

Minutes

CLWP.65 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Keal and Mr A Evans, Chairman of the Community Leisure Board.

CLWP.66 Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Leisure Working Party held on 5 June 2008

The minutes of the last meeting of the Community Leisure Working Party held on 5 June 2008 were presented (previously circulated).

The minutes of this meeting had been submitted to the Community Services & Licensing Committee held on 24 July 2008.

The Chairman referred to the resolution of Minute No. CLWP. 61 (Community Leisure Review (June)) and reminded Members that the Community Leisure Working Party Terms of Reference stated that 'The Working Party will meet at least four times a year and will review arrangements with Community Leisure Limited at least annually and provide a report to Council as approved by Community Services 7 Licensing Committee'. Therefore, this meant that the Working Party itself were to carry out the 12 month review of Community Leisure Limited and not the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as recommended.

Members were in agreement that the way forward would be to form a Task Group and the Chairman welcomed the appointment of three Members from the Committee to attend to form the group.

Resolved

- (a) That the minutes of the last meeting of the Community Leisure Working Party held on 5 June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- (b) That the following three Members be appointed to the Task Group:
 - Councillor Mrs Keal
 - Councillor Mrs Arnold
 - Councillor Mrs De Wend Fenton

CLWP.67 Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Leisure Board held on 23 July 2008

The minutes of the last meeting of the Community Leisure Board held on 23 July 2008 were presented (previously circulated).

Resolved

That the minutes be received.

CLWP.68 Urgent Business

The Chairman reported that there was one item to be considered as a matter of urgency. A progress report had been requested on Quest accreditation.

CLWP.69 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were made:

- All Items Councillor Hemesley declared a personal interest in all items as a Member of the Community Leisure Management Board.
- Item 8 Councillor Mrs De Wend Fenton declared a person interest in this item as her son was currently a pupil of Lady Lumley's School.
- Item 8 Councillor Mrs Arnold declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the Scouts Association.

CLWP.70 E-Booking

David Hannah of Matrix Consultants reported on the investigation into the E-Booking system, an E-Government programme aimed to introduce efficiencies in Local Government by reducing costs and providing a simpler way for the public to interact with local government using new web communication technologies. He felt that the E-Booking system did not provide value for money and proposed extending the current IT system, as the quality of information, timing and accuracy would be better value. Mr Hannah requested that the Council consider extending the system with immediate effect.

Members requested that Mr Hannah meet with the Council's ICT Manager to discuss the action to be taken and that a report be submitted to a future meeting.

Resolved

That arrangements be made for the Council's ICT Manager to meet with Mr Hannah and that a report be submitted to a future meeting.

CLWP.71 VAT Progress Report

The Corporate Director (s152) reported that he had met with Mr Hannah and a firm proposal was now in place.

Mr Hannah reported that overpayments of VAT had recently been identified in respect of the Northern Ryedale Leisure Centre (NRLC). The situation was to be investigated and it was suggested that the Council's Financial Services Manager and an Independent Auditor, in consultation with the Chairman and Corporate Director (s151) be authorised to carry out the review.

The Cultural and Tourism Services Manager suggested that Community Leisure Limited raise the issue at the next meeting of the NRLC Strategic Facility Management Committee, which was to be held on Wednesday 17 September 2008.

Resolved

That following investigation a detailed report be submitted to a future meeting of the Working Party.

CLWP.72 Provision of Office Space at Derwent Pool

The Property Services Manager reported that consultation had taken place with Community Leisure Ltd regarding the provision of office space at Derwent Pool.

Plans were displayed which showed an improvement to the staff area by the addition of a shower and separate WC, an office for two persons along with a new reception desk reconfiguration of the pool entrance area. Community Leisure Limited had endorsed the proposals.

Mr Hannah reported that the lease for Head Office was due to expire in November 2008 and he had approached the landlord and a limited (month to month) lease extension had been agreed until the relocation to the new offices at the Derwent Pool had taken place.

CLWP.73 Climbing Wall Update

Mr Hannah reported that he was obtaining insurance cover for CLL operation of the climbing wall.

Mr Hannah expressed concern regarding the installation and removal of the bolt holds for the climbing wall.

Members felt that the wall should be operational (eg courses) in community use time for a trial period and were prepared to underwrite the cost of this should there be a revenue implication. Members requested that Mr Hannah collated figures for this.

Mr Hannah suggested that Drew Haugh, a Climbing Instructor currently helping CLL with publicity, be requested to launch the trial period for the climbing wall scheme. It was reported that a climbing instructor would carry their own insurance cover.

It was also suggested that it would be beneficial to advertise to local Scouts and Girl Guides Associations as well as Active Ryedale as they were currently sponsoring a climbing course from the 'extended activities' budget in the September to December term. It was considered that a joint marketing exercise would increase impetus for the trial period.

Resolved

That Community Leisure Limited be requested to advertise a trial period for the use of the wall, subject to agreed budget implications, and adequate insurance cover.

CLWP.74 Government Free Swimming Programme

The Cultural and Tourism Services Manager circulated a document for information regarding Government scheme for Free Swimming.

The Government were keen to encourage as many local authorities as possible to participate in making swimming free for over 60's and under 16's in local communities, but also to stimulate ambitious authorities to maximise and sustain uptake through other initiatives such as free lessons for adults who can not swim, the introduction of swimming coordinators and to provide incentives for the most ambitious to move further towards a universal free swimming offer.

The Government was therefore providing access to a two-year grant scheme to support swimming in these two categories plus a capital improvements scheme grant.

The Cultural and Tourism Services Manager reported that the calculation for the over 60's was according to a simple formula based on the size of the local over-60 population. For Ryedale this amounted to £20,727. The current income derived from over 60's swims needed to be clarified by Community Leisure Limited, but an early estimate suggested that this scheme was affordable.

In addition, there were risks involved in the proposed scheme which were learnt from the free public transport schemes currently in operation:

- The number of over 60's swimmers was likely to considerably increase. This could lead to extremely busy public swimming sessions which would have deterred other pool users, thereby possibly reducing full paying clients
- Over 60's could travel from other districts which may not participate, to use the Ryedale pools
- Public expectations were high however, the funding was for a 2 year period only and may not have continued past 2011, whereas public expectations would.

The Cultural and Tourism Services Manager reported that swimming remained a popular activity for children with 38% of 11-16 year olds participating in swimming in and out of school at least once a month. The Government was keen to extend the principle of making swimming free to the under 16's. This did not include swimming lessons.

Members were invited to express an interest in partaking in this scheme by 15 September 2008. There was no information at present regarding the level of grant aid, which may be awarded. It was possible that the grant would not cover 100% of the costs, this information would be clear on 30 September 2008 and a decision would then be required by 15 October 2008.

It was noted that, to support local authorities in making swimming for the over 60's and under 16's, a capital fund was available to modernise pool provision. All authorities that signed up to participate in both schemes would be entitled to a one-off capital grant in 2008-09.

Members were of the opinion that the scheme should also include the Helmsley Open Air Pool too.

Resolved

- (a) That this Working Party support the application to the Government schemes for free swimming for the over 60's and investigate the potential grant aid available for under 16's any investigation into potential for capital funding for improvements to Derwent Pool.
- (b) That a report be taken to full Council on 4 September 2008 to recommend the application as noted in part (a) of this recommendation.

CLWP.75 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 October 2008 at 5.30 pm.

CLWP.76 Urgent Business

The following item was considered as a matter of urgency by virtue of Section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972.

CLWP.77 Update on QUEST Accreditation

An update on CLL's progress in achieving Quest (Quality Assurance) Accreditation was sought.

QUEST accreditation provided an opportunity for both the Council and Community Leisure Limited, working together to demonstrate their commitment to providing and operating quality leisure facilities, benchmarking to industry standards.

Mr Hannah reported that there were procedures for QUEST accreditation to go through the Board of Management Committee and assured Members that he would submit a progress report and timetable to the next meeting of the Working Party.