
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	25 November 2010	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Head of Leisure & Community Stuart Batchelor Ext: 5820	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Melbourne Leisure Facilities	REF: SB/SC
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Melbourne	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the progress that has been achieved on the feasibility of providing improved leisure facilities in Melbourne.
- 1.2 To agree the proposed way forward for the development of a community multi sport club based at Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground.
- 1.3 To continue developing the proposed plan to enable the Melbourne Community Centre Group to manage and develop the Bill Shone Leisure Centre.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The report provides background to the feasibility works for the provision of improved leisure facilities in Melbourne which has been progressing over the past 18 months. This progress has resulted in two specific project proposals and Members are asked to agree to the continued development of these projects.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In 2009 Pleydell Smithyman Consultants was commissioned to complete a feasibility study to look at the provision of improved leisure facilities in Melbourne. The study included an audit of land and buildings in the area and considered the level of need/demand that existed in the community for leisure facilities and activities.
- 3.2 The study confirmed that although the ideal would be to have a purpose built facility for indoor sports/culture/community and an outdoor community sports club facility, this is not achievable in the medium term and only in the longer term (10 years plus) if a new secondary school was to be provided in the Melbourne area.
- 3.3 Instead the practical approach for progressing the development of facilities was deemed to be through two specific projects.
 - The development of the Bill Shone/Melbourne Leisure Centre as a cultural/community venue.

- The development of Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground as a community sports facility.

Bill Shone/Melbourne Leisure Centre

- 3.4 The Bill Shone/Melbourne Leisure Centre is an old school, owned by the District Council and leased to the Parish Council. It is used by community groups for a variety of activities but is under utilised and not fit for purpose as a 'Leisure Centre'. The District Council has been renegotiating the Centre's lease with the Parish for a period of time and this has coincided with the local Melbourne Community Centre Group approaching the Parish Council to take on the lease, and management of the Centre. Their aim is to develop the Centre into a vibrant cultural/arts centre for the whole community.
- 3.5 A Project Group has been formed and is developing a proposal based upon the Leisure Centre being leased to the Community Group. A consultant has been commissioned to produce a business plan to support the groups proposal. An initial Business Plan has been developed which is sustainable if current levels of financial support for the running of the Centre are maintained. Condition survey work is currently being undertaken to ascertain what future development of the building could be considered. Once a full project proposal is completed it will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee in order for consideration and potential approval for the project to be agreed.

Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground

- 3.6 A group called Melbourne Sporting Partnership has been revitalised and is developing a project for the development of a multi sport club facility that would be owned and managed by one partnership organisation. Progress on the site is already happening with £175,000 of investment involved in levelling of a sports pitch which will be a major improvement to the existing facility.
- 3.7 A design brief is to be completed by March 2011 which will provide plans for a facility and pitch configuration based on the needs of the clubs. Work will also be undertaken on the structure of the Partnership which will manage the site and its facilities.
- 3.8 It is hoped that both projects will progress beyond the feasibility stage and will be suitable for funding bids to grant regimes such as Sports Lottery Fund, Big Lottery, Arts lottery Fund and Football Foundation.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The feasibility work that has been undertaken has been funded through 'Growth Point' funds of which £90,000 was allocated. This funding covered the initial £4,800 cost of the Pleydell Smithyman Feasibility Report and is now being utilised by the two distinct projects to develop business plans and/or design works to progress the projects to a delivery stage. External funding bids are expected to be submitted.
- 4.2 Currently the District Council makes a financial contribution of £29,456 a year through Section 136 funds and £3,140 for maintenance and repairs towards the provision of the Bill Shone Leisure Centre, it is envisaged that a similar amount of support would be required in the future to fully realise the potential of the centre as a vibrant community facility.

4.3 It is envisaged that both projects will require external funds to be delivered but will both be in a strong position to be successful in this process.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The development of leisure facilities in Melbourne is a key action within the 'Promoting Healthy Facilities and Lifestyles' objective in the 'Lifestyle Choice' priority. The project would also contribute to supporting the 'Safer Neighbourhoods' objective of the 'Safe and Secure' priority in that it would provide significant opportunities for youth engagement and within the 'Value for Money' priority it would improve the contribution of a council facility to the local community and support the voluntary sector delivering their own services.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The proposed projects, if successful will have a major impact on meeting the leisure and community demands of Melbourne. Both are being led by a strong partnership of clubs and/or individuals and have the potential to develop and become sustainable.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The feasibility work undertaken has been welcomed by partners in Melbourne and an enthusiastic group of clubs, organisations and individuals are working hard to formulate sustainable projects which will provide sports, cultural and community facilities available for all the community.