

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15th January 2007

PRESENT:-

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Labour Group

Councillors Pabla (Vice-Chair), Richards and Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillors Mrs. Hood and Lemmon.

Officers

K. Stackhouse (Head of Finance and Property Services), C. Mason (Leisure Services Manager), S. Wright (Leisure Centre Manager) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services).

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governors

C. Clemens (Chair) and M. Crane.

Officer

F. Briggs.

Representative of Derbyshire County Council

Councillor Hood.

Community Group Representatives

Mrs. Bussell and Mrs. Wedgbury.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Bambrick (Derbyshire County Council), M. Alflat (Director of Community Services) and P. Kennerdell.

EL/22. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2006 and the Special Meeting held on 4th December 2006 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chair, subject to paragraph 3 of Minute No. EL/17 of 4th December 2006 being amended to read "...that work could be completed by December 2008".

EL/23. **USAGE INFORMATION**

The Leisure Centre Manager presented a report that gave a breakdown of public usage of the swimming pool, squash courts and tennis courts for the financial years 2002/03 to 2006/07. In particular, it was pointed out that the pool was closed between 20th December 2006 and 4th January 2007 to carry out essential maintenance work.

It was noted that Etwall Leisure Centre was an Amateur Swimming Association Approved Centre for the delivery of courses. In addition, a new programme for

health "Wheelie Swim" promotion "GET ON YOUR BIKE AND SWIM", was running during the months of January and February 2007.

RESOLVED:-

That the Usage Information report be noted.

EL/24. **PROPOSED LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE**

The Leisure Services Manager gave an update with regard to the proposed new Leisure Centre. He reported that within the last week, a scheme had been agreed by the school and the District Council. This was now costed at £6.9m, being £0.7m above the figure which had previously been identified. It may now be necessary to amend the scheme in line with the finance available. A meeting was scheduled on 25th January 2007 between representatives of both the school and the District Council to discuss the funding shortfall. It was pointed out that there was currently £5m guaranteed in the fund, plus interest amounting to approximately £100,000.

F. Briggs advised that the grant currently being pursued with Badminton England had successfully passed through stage 1, with the stage 2 meeting due to take place shortly. It was hoped that Badminton England would support this project with a grant of £400,000.

The Leisure Services Manager added that it was necessary to identify all funding before the project commenced. The architect and quantity surveyor were still working on these figures. It was confirmed that it may be necessary to reconsider both the District Council's and the school's requirements if no other avenues of funding could be found. However these avenues were still being actively pursued. M. Crane reported that due to pressure on the current school buildings, it was vital that this project should proceed as soon as possible. F. Briggs was hopeful that following the meeting on 25th January 2007, it may be possible to consider alternative methods of bridging the funding gap.

It was agreed by all Members of the Committee that this matter should be resolved urgently, as any further delays would exacerbate the funding issues.

RESOLVED:-

That following the meeting on 25th January 2007, a Special Meeting of the Joint Management Committee be arranged to consider progress on this matter.

EL/25. **PROBABLE OUT-TURN 2006/07 AND ESTIMATES 2007/2008**

A report was submitted detailing the Leisure Centre's probable out-turn for 2006/07 and the original estimate for 2007/08. It also set out proposals for the level of fees and charges for 2007/08.

The increase in net expenditure for 2006/07 was reported, the main reason for which was due to the additional costs of energy at the centre, particularly gas. In addition, there had been an increase in wage costs, but these had been offset by an increase in income from swimming lessons. The budget had initially been compiled at November 2006 prices and an allowance for inflation had been included where this was considered unavoidable. The report outlined the

assumptions that had been built into the estimates. In summary, the overall net expenditure for 2007/08 was estimated to increase by a further £41,000 compared to 2006/07. The main reason for the increase was the full year effect of the additional energy costs incurred during 2006/07.

A further appendix showed the proposed fees and charges for 2007/08. No major changes were forecast for 2007/08 and it was proposed that fees and charges were increased by the approximate rate of inflation.

RESOLVED:-

(1) That the proposed estimates of income and expenditure for 2006/07 and 2007/08 be approved.

(2) That the proposed fees and charges for 2007/08 be approved.

EL/26. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

RECRUITMENT OF DUTY OFFICER (Paragraph 1)

The Leisure Centre Manager gave a verbal update on the current position with regard to the recruitment of a Duty Officer.

C. CLEMENS

CHAIR