



Minutes of the Leisure and Community Policy Development & Review Panel

*Minutes of a meeting held on 7 November 2012
at the Civic Offices, Fareham*

PRESENT:

Councillor Miss S M Bell
(Chairman)

Councillor M J Ford, JP
(Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs P M Bryant, J M Englefield, T G Knight, Mrs S Pankhurst and
R H Price, JP.

Also Present Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley, Executive Member for Leisure and
Community (Minute 7, 8 and 9)

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence made at this meeting.

2. MINUTES

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Community
Policy Development & Review Panel held on 5 September 2012 be confirmed
and signed as a correct record ([l&c-120905-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made at this meeting.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR
DIRECTION**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which reviewed the Panel's proposed work programme for 2012/13 (copy of report - [I&c-121107-r01-mge](#) circulated with the agenda).

The Director of Community informed members of the following proposed amendments to the work programme :-

(i) Meeting on 16 January 2013

- Instead of a report, the item on Portchester Community Centre and Wicor Recreation Ground changing rooms to take the form of a presentation by officers, followed by a question and answer session;
- The Chief Executive of Community Action Fareham be invited to attend to discuss issues relating to volunteering (current unallocated item);
- An item be added to the work programme inviting the Portchester resident referred to by the Director of Community and Councillor Price, to attend the Panel meeting to explain his proposals for the possible provision of a skatepark at Wicor Recreation Ground; and

(ii) Meeting on 6 March 2013

- The unallocated item to consider options for provision of a new multi use games area facility at Portchester Community Centre, be added to the work programme for this meeting.

It was AGREED that the above amendments to the Panel's work programme, for 2012/13 be approved, and the programme updated accordingly.

7. LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC AND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS (FROM FAREHAM'S PERSPECTIVE)

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which provided an update on the events and initiatives that were delivered in Fareham as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games and the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations (copy of report [I&c-121107-r03-ewa](#) circulated with the agenda). A presentation was also made by the Leisure Projects Officer which included a video showing the Olympic Torch Relay celebrations in Fareham on Sunday 15 July 2012, attended by an estimated 20,000 spectators.

At the invitation of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Hockley addressed the Panel during discussion on this item.

Officers agreed to investigate the proposal by Councillor Price that a copy of the video be presented to Hampshire County Council's Wessex Film Archives, to be retained as a visual record of this special event.

The Panel received details of the various events and activities which took place in the borough from March 2012, the official opening of the Diamond Jubilee Play area in West Street, Fareham up until the Light a Lantern Festival held on 22 August 2012 to celebrate and promote the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Reference was also made to the four Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field sites secured through the Fields in Trust challenge initiative and the future importance of these permanently protected sites.

From Fareham's perspective, the outcomes from the London 2012 Olympics were summarised as follows:-

- Increase in physical activity levels;
- Increase in club participation;
- Four Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field sites secured across the borough;
- Increase in volunteering;
- An increase in local outdoor space and sports facilities being used;
- Future Olympic legacy funding opportunities.

Members wished it to be recorded that they fully appreciated the hard work undertaken by officers in preparation for these events and the contribution made by the team of volunteers. It was requested that congratulations be extended to all those involved. The Director of Community thanked the Head of Leisure and Community and his team for all their efforts, particularly in relation to the organisation and planning of the very successful Olympic Torch Relay event.

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the events and initiatives delivered in Fareham as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games and the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations, (as detailed within the report), be noted; and
- (b) the Panel fully endorsed the comments made by the Director of Community referred to above and further wished to thank volunteers and members of the public who took part in and/or supported the various events and activities held.

8. REVIEW OF TOURIST INFORMATION

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which reviewed the current arrangements for the management of the Tourist Information Centre and potential future arrangements for the service (copy of report - [I&c-121107-r04-mbo](#) circulated with the agenda).

At the invitation of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Hockley addressed the Panel during discussion on this item.

Members were asked to note that Fareham's Tourist Information Centre was not open on Mondays, as mentioned in paragraph 4 of the report, because Westbury Manor Museum is closed on that day.

The Panel took into consideration the following main issues:-

- The promotion of Fareham as a Tourist destination is not a corporate priority and in the 2009 survey, residents indicated that the provision of a Tourist Information Centre is a low priority;
- Partnership funding provided by Fareham Borough Council towards the operation of the TIC, currently around £36,000 per annum, will need to be further reduced to help meet the Council's need for efficiency savings and there is increasing uncertainty about future grant awards;
- The future use of the Westbury Manor building is uncertain. The agreement between Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to use the building as a museum expires in November 2012. Future provision of the museum service is being considered by Hampshire County Council as part of their current review of museum and arts services county-wide.

The Panel discussed the matter at length. Members considered the current role of the TIC, in particular to what degree it assists in promoting facilities in Fareham; its contribution to the local economy and whether the current arrangement provides value for money. The Chairman expressed concern that having recently looked at the TIC website, it was noted that mainly the facilities/venues being promoted were those located outside the borough. In addition, members discussed alternative ways of providing the services currently offered by the TIC, and the possibility of a relocating the service to an alternative town centre location. It was suggested that there may be scope for involving volunteers to assist the TIC with provision of its service and that this could be explored further.

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the TIC should be located in the main town centre area, whether it continues to operate from Westbury Manor Museum or another location;

- (b) the Tourist Information Service be expected to play a greater role in promoting events and facilities in Fareham to include updating its web page; and
- (c) consideration be given to the role which could be played by volunteers in the provision of TIC services.

9. WICOR RECREATION GROUND

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which provided an update on the the measures proposed for the car park at the Wicor Recreation Ground (copy of report - [l&c-121107-r05-gsa](#) circulated with the agenda). A presentation was made by the Leisure Development Manager and a plan of the proposed works circulated to all members present.

At the invitation of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Hockley addressed the Panel during discussion on this item.

Councillor Price referred to paragraph 8 of the report, which stated that it was not proposed to implement any ground based traffic calming measures, e.g. speed humps or kerb lines in the car park, as the area is unlit and these could create a trip hazard in hours of darkness. It was his view that the current proposals should include such traffic calming measures, in order to help reduce anti-social driving in the car park. It was acknowledged however that any such measures would require better lighting in the car park, with consequent cost implications. Additionally, a question was raised as to whether it was intended that the toilets within the new changing rooms would be open for use by members of the public during weekdays.

The Chairman proposed that these issues be addressed at the next Panel meeting on 16 January 2013 as part of the officer presentation to update members on the Wicor changing room project. It was noted that the current proposals include the provision of build out to reduce carriageway width and thereby help to reduce traffic problems.

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the proposals detailed in paragraph 6 of the report and as shown in the plan be approved; and
- (b) the additional issues raised at the meeting and referred to above be addressed by officers at the next Panel meeting on 16 January 2013.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and representatives of the Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the Committee considers it is not in the public interest to consider the matter in public on the grounds that it will involve the

disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

ITEM TAKEN IN PRIVATE

11. FERNEHAM HALL PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2011/12

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which provided a summary of the financial performance of Ferneham Hall for the financial year 2011/12, details of current financial performance for 2012/13 and new initiatives to generate income for the facility (confidential report).

The General Manager answered a variety of questions raised by members regarding issues contained in the report. Members took particular note of the points made about the effect of the economic downturn generally throughout the leisure and entertainment industry.

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the financial performance of Ferneham Hall, as detailed in the report, be noted;
- (b) the Panel support the initiatives highlighted in the report which aim to improve future financial performance; and
- (c) the General Manager and his team be thanked for the service to the community which the venue provides.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 8.25pm)