

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

22 May 2007

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 YOUTH & PLAY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Summary

This report updates Members on key areas of the Youth & Play Development Officer's (YPDO) work programme.

1.1 Leybourne Lakes Country Park – Junior Ranger Programme

1.1.1 A Junior Ranger Programme for 8 – 12 year olds at Leybourne Lakes Country Park (LLCP) was successfully piloted last year.

1.1.2 The Junior Ranger Programme focuses on conservation and the environment, including making bird/bat boxes and orienteering. The programme is run by the on-site Rangers at LLCP, and will target young people from the local area. This year the course is running on seven Saturday mornings from 10:00 – 12:30, in May and June for a maximum of 12 young people.

1.2 Easter Activate

1.2.1 I am pleased to report that 343 young people took part in the Easter Activate programme, with many positive comments being received from parents, young people and staff. The majority of courses reached full capacity in a matter of days from the Activate guide being distributed.

1.2.2 The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts visited a number of activities, and was able to talk to the young people and staff taking part. The number of children attending the 2007 Easter programme showed a 23% increase on attendances in 2006, reflecting the growing popularity of the programme.

1.3 Summer Activate

1.3.1 In comparison to 2006, an increased range of courses and activities are proposed for this year's summer programme. Examples include a historical re-enactment of medieval crafts at Tonbridge Castle, a mobile skateboarding event in East Malling, fencing classes at three sites across the borough, a Caribbean afternoon and a sculpture project for Haysden Country Park.

- 1.3.2 Whilst the cost of activities vary, a financial concession of 50% for Leisure Pass holders will apply to all activities to ensure as many young people as possible attend.
- 1.3.3 Members may recall that Activate is marketed through the distribution of a brochure. The summer brochure will be available to all schools in the borough from 16 May 2007.

1.4 Youth Forum

- 1.4.1 TM Youth Forum meets every 6 – 8 weeks with an average attendance of 28 young people. Presentations are made at each meeting from Forum members and visitors. The Youth Forum has developed a new Youth website, which was launched on 24 March 2007 at the SNAP (Say No and Phone) disco at Larkfield Leisure Centre. Members of the Youth Forum are working to raise the positive profile of young people within the borough and have met with the Civic Society and local transport providers to this end. Members of the Youth Forum are working with the Council to create an educational pack on democracy and the electoral process as well as getting involved in community activities such as the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), the Tour de France, recycling and anti litter campaigns.

1.5 Try Angle Awards

- 1.5.1 The Try Angle Awards are a partnership scheme between Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council Youth Service to celebrate the achievements of young people aged from 10 – 18 years.
- 1.5.2 Young people can be nominated for an award by their schools, youth groups, parents or friends. The categories are bravery, personal achievement in the arts, music, sport or outdoor activity, service to the community, good friends and young carers citizenship, environment and personal development.
- 1.5.3 This year's award ceremony will take place at the River Centre, Tonbridge, on 21 June at 6.00 pm. The Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling has been invited to hand out certificates.

1.6 Summer Playscheme (SP)

- 1.6.1 Good progress has been made with regards to the organisation of this year's Playscheme, which will take place from Monday 30 July to Friday 24 August inclusive. This year the age range has been extended to include four year olds who have been in school for two terms. The SP is marketed through the distribution of a brochure to all schools in mid May.
- 1.6.2 14 SP venues have been booked and registered with OFSTED. Eight will be directly operated and six will be operated by partners. Shortly before the print deadline for these papers, the Council was advised by the East Peckham Sports

Hall Management Committee that, due to urgent building works, the Sports Hall will be unavailable for this year's SP. Efforts are being made in liaison with Ofsted to find a suitable alternative venue in the village that can be registered in advance of the scheme, and I will update Members verbally at the meeting on progress.

- 1.6.3 In accordance with the proposed operational arrangements, 65 staff will be required to work directly for the council on the 2007 SP. I am pleased to report that 59 staff have so far been appointed and recruitment is ongoing to find the remaining staff required.

1.7 Legal Implications

- 1.7.1 The Council has powers to undertake this activity by virtue of Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972. Under the requirement of the Children's Act (1999) and in accordance with the Council's Child Protection Policy all staff will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check no older than 12 months.

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.8.1 The cost of the activities will be met from the 2007/08 Youth & Play Development Revenue Budget.

1.9 Risk Assessment

- 1.9.1 A risk assessment of all the activities and venues is undertaken in liaison with the Council's Health & Safety and Insurance Officers. Each of the facilities used will be requested to produce adequate insurance certificates and risk assessments. The SP venues are all registered with Ofsted and comply with the 14 national standards for childcare.

Background papers:

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Nil

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