

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

17 July 2007

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 YOUNG PEOPLE / CHILDREN UPDATE

Summary

This report updates Members on activities and initiatives for young people and children (key corporate priority) since the last meeting of this Board.

1.1 Poult Wood Golf Centre (PWGC) – Junior Open Competition

1.1.1 The annual Junior Open golf competition took place on 31 May 2007 and attracted a record level of entries - 124. Now in its eleventh year, the event remains popular with junior golfers, attracting young people from across Kent.

1.1.2 During the day, the participants enjoyed lunch in the Clubhouse, and free use of the new Driving Range. In the evening, the Mayor presented the prizes.

1.1.3 Sponsorship for the event was received from the Clubhouse & Catering Contractors, Par4 Catering Ltd, and the event was organised by PWGC's Head Golf Professional.

1.2 2007 Discovery Day Events

1.2.1 The annual Discovery Days for children and young people with special needs are held every May at Larkfield Leisure Centre (LLC) and in October at the Angel Centre (AC).

1.2.2 The LLC event took place on 17 May with 65 young people from 6 special schools in the area taking part. A wide range of sports activities were made available to the school pupils free of charge, and in addition to the qualified instructors leading each session, 16 volunteer helpers from Aylesford Sports College were in attendance to assist the coaches and school staff.

1.2.3 The AC event is due to take place on 11 October and once again students from local secondary schools have been asked to provide volunteer helpers. The Mayor attended the Larkfield event to officially begin the Days' activities and it is intended she will perform a similar duty at the AC event.

1.3 Easter Sports Camp

- 1.3.1 As a pilot project, it was decided to run a one day Sports Camp over Easter, offering a wide number of sports sessions. The Sports Camp was held at Holmesdale Technology College, Snodland on 10 April 2007 offering the following sports; basketball, badminton, football, New Age curling, circus skills, netball, archery, cricket and rugby.
- 1.3.2 62 children aged 8 to 16 years attended the Sports Camp at a cost of £10 per child. It was felt the initiative was successful, and a similar event has been planned for 31 July 2007, again at Holmesdale Technology College. In addition, it is planned to pilot a Fit Camp this summer, where the activities on offer will be mainly fitness based and will include aerobics, pilates, boxercise, fitness circuits, spinning and nutrition workshops. The Fit Camp will take place on 24 August at the Angel Centre, which is currently promoting junior fitness sessions during term time.

1.4 East Malling Children's Fund

- 1.4.1 For the last 3 years, funding from the East Malling Children's' Fund has enabled the Council's Sports Development Officer to organise a series of Adventure Days for pupils of St James the Great Primary School and The Malling School.
- 1.4.2 On 9 March, 16 Year 6 pupils from St. James the Great Primary School and 16 Year 7 pupils from The Malling School attended the Chatham Ski Centre for a day's skiing, snowboarding and tobogganing.
- 1.4.3 On 22 June, 6 July and 13 July, 96 pupils (32 each day) from The Malling School will attend the Carroty Wood Activities Centre in Tonbridge, to take part in orienteering, climbing, abseiling, raft-building and kayaking.

1.5 2007 Kwik Cricket Festival

- 1.5.1 On 12 June, the 2007 Tonbridge and Malling Primary Schools Kwik Cricket Festival, organised by the Council and the Kent Cricket Board, was held at Tonbridge School with a record number of teams (28) taking part.
- 1.5.2 It is the first time the event has been held at Tonbridge School and following its success, the school has already expressed its willingness to host next year's event. The winners of the event were Borough Green Primary School, who will now go on to represent Tonbridge and Malling at the County Final on 1 July in Canterbury. Plaxtol Primary School were the runners-up and St Margaret Clitheroe School, Tonbridge took the Most Sporting Team accolade with the Mayor presenting each team with their awards and certificates.

1.6 Try Angle Awards

- 1.6.1 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.
- 1.6.2 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.
- 1.6.3 This year's award ceremony took place at the River Centre, Tonbridge, on 21 June at 6.00pm. The Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts presented certificates on the night.

1.7 Youth Development

- 1.7.1 The Youth Forum continues to meet regularly. At recent meetings the young people chose to focus on their membership of the local community and ways they could volunteer and how to raise their profile. They also looked at the implications of the no smoking ban and how they can raise young people's awareness of healthy living options. The next meeting will be on 19 September 2007.
- 1.7.2 Youth Forum members volunteered to help staff the Council trailer and the Crime and Disorder Reduction stand at the Tour De France event on 8 July 2007.

1.8 Summer Playscheme

- 1.8.1 The Summer Playscheme for 4 to 11 year olds, begins on 30 July. 77 staff members have been appointed, including 1-1 staff for Playscheme Plus.
- 1.8.2 Due to unexpected building works at the usual venue at East Peckham (Sports Hall), it has been necessary to seek OFSTED registration at another site in the village at very short notice. All appropriate documentation has been completed and we now await final confirmation from OFSTED as to whether the Village Hall will be granted registration in time. I will update Members at the meeting on the current position regarding East Peckham and also the Summer Playscheme as a whole.

1.9 Summer Activate

- 1.9.1 The Summer Activate programme begins on 30 July offering 32 different activities at a variety of venues across the borough. This year new activities are being included in response to the results of feedback from last year's participants, including, cookery, skateboarding skills and historical re-enactments at Tonbridge Castle.

1.10 Legal Implications

- 1.10.1 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.

1.11 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

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

1.12 Risk Assessment

1.12.1 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:

Nil

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