

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

15 July 2008

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 – Junior Open Competition

1.1.1 The annual Junior Open golf competition took place on 29 May 2008 and attracted a high level of entries (123). Now in its twelfth 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 Poult Wood's Golf Professional Contractor David Copsey.

1.2 2008 Discovery Day Events

1.2.1 The annual Discovery Day events for children and young people with special needs are held every May at Larkfield Leisure Centre and in October at the Angel Centre.

1.2.2 The Larkfield event took place on 15 May with 67 young people from 6 special schools in the area taking part. A wide range of sports activities were made available to the young people free of charge, and in addition to the qualified instructors leading each session, 16 volunteer helpers from Aylesford Sports College and 10 from Holmesdale School were in attendance to assist the coaches and school staff.

1.2.3 The Angel event is due to take place on 9 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 he will perform a similar duty at the second event later in the year.

1.3 2008 Kwik Cricket Festival

- 1.3.1 On 10 June, the 2008 Tonbridge and Malling Primary Schools Kwik Cricket Festival, organised by the Council and the Kent Cricket Board, with help from local schools, was held at Tonbridge School with 24 teams taking part from 15 schools.
- 1.3.2 Following the success of last year's event, the Festival returned to Tonbridge School. The winners of the event were Woodlands Primary School Tonbridge, who will now go on to represent Tonbridge and Malling at the County Final on 6 July in Canterbury. Borough Green Primary School were the runners-up and Tunbury Primary School took the Most Sporting Team accolade with the Mayor presenting each team with their awards and certificates.

1.4 Try Angle Awards

- 1.4.1 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 11 – 18 years.
- 1.4.2 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, volunteering and service to the community, good friends and young carers, citizenship, environment and personal development.
- 1.4.3 This year's award ceremony took place at the Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, on 4 July.

1.5 Youth Development

- 1.5.1 The TM Youth Forum has recently elected new joint Chairs and through successful fund raising has completed the filming and production of its DVD and the purchase of a mobile inflatable diary room for obtaining young peoples views called a 'Mipod'.
- 1.5.2 The DVD will be distributed through schools, youth groups, church groups and can be downloaded from the TMYouth website.
- 1.5.3 The Mipod will be used over the summer at various community events and at some Y2Crew activities.
- 1.5.4 The next meeting of the Youth Forum will be on 16 September 2008.

1.6 Summer Playscheme

- 1.6.1 The Summer Playscheme for children of primary school age begins on 28 July. 83 staff members have been appointed directly by the Council, including 1-1 staff for Playscheme Plus.

1.6.2 Following the fire which rendered Potters Mede pavilion unavailable for use this summer, alternative arrangements are being made for Borough Green Primary School, maintaining the number of places registered with Ofsted.

1.6.3 At the time of writing this report, registration for places at 14 venues is well underway, and I will update members at the meeting.

1.7 Summer Activate

1.7.1 The Summer Activate programme begins on 28 July offering a range of activities for 8 to 16 year olds at a variety of venues across the borough. A number of new activities are being introduced this year in response to feedback from last year's participants, including, Taekwon-do, Bollywood dance, mini-squash, table tennis and life saving.

1.7.2 Once again, registration for places is well underway and I will update Members at the meeting.

1.8 Y2Crew

1.8.1 Y2Crew is a four week partnership programme run during the school summer holidays, providing diversionary activities for vulnerable young people aged 11-18 in targeted areas. The scheme is run in liaison with KCC Children and Families, Education and Libraries, the Police, Community Wardens, the Fire Rescue Service, Russet Homes and Connections.

1.8.2 This year's activities include a Rap workshop, Driving Skills, Cookery and Food Hygiene, as well as trips to Thorpe Park, West End Theatre, the London Eye and O2 Arena.

1.9 Legal Implications

1.9.1 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.

1.10 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.10.1 The cost of the activities will be met from the existing 2008/09 leisure development revenue budgets and through fundraising for the Y2Crew.

1.10.2 Brochures for this year's activities have been reduced to A5 size to account for the change in postal charges and to give greater value for money. The size is also easier for display purposes.

1.11 Risk Assessment

1.11.1 A risk assessment of all the activities and venues is undertaken in liaison with the Council's Health and Safety and Insurance Officers. Each of the facilities used will be requested to produce adequate insurance certificates and risk assessments. The Summer Playscheme venues are all registered with Ofsted and comply with the 14 National Standards for Childcare.

1.12 Policy Considerations

1.12.1 Healthy Lifestyles, Young People, Community, Crime & Disorder Reduction.

Background papers:

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Nil

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