

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

16 March 2009

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 FESTIVAL OF SPORT EVENT

Summary

This report advises Members on preparations for a Festival of Sport Event to be held at Tonbridge School on Sunday 26 April 2009 in liaison with the Tonbridge Lions Club and local sports clubs and organisations.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Following an offer from Tonbridge Lions Club to fund a sporting event for young people and their families in Tonbridge, discussions have taken place between the Lions Club and the Council's Sports Development Officer. It was agreed to link the funding to the aim of increasing residents' participation in sports activities and to promote active lifestyles.

1.1.2 In the summer of 2007 the Council organised an event on the Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground linked to the Tour de France. The event was free for the public to attend and involved a wide range of stands and displays. These provided interactive activities and information from local clubs and organisations including England Rugby, Charlton Athletic Football Club, Tonbridge Bobcats Baseball Club and the Go Ride scheme.

1.1.3 The event was very well attended and received by the public, and led to positive outcomes for the clubs and organisations involved including an increase of over 30 new junior members for the Tonbridge Bobcats Baseball Club. It was felt that another similar event could be arranged in order to further improve activity rates amongst young people and to assist clubs in attracting new members and volunteers.

1.2 Event

1.2.1 Tonbridge School has kindly agreed to host the event. The School has both indoor and outdoor facilities available, including a Sports Hall, astro-turf pitches, swimming pool, athletics track and outdoor pitches. The facilities have been booked for the event.

1.2.2 Tonbridge School has good links with the community and a number of local sports clubs and organisations use the site and its facilities. The venue is also used for the annual Kwik Cricket Festival which has grown in recent years since relocating to the School.

1.3 Organisations Involved

1.3.1 A number of sports clubs and organisations have already confirmed their involvement in the Festival of Sport detailed in **[Annex 1]**. Tonbridge Sports Association and a number of other sports clubs have also been approached and interest is expected to continue to build in the lead up to the event.

1.3.2 Other organisations that have also been approached include: the Youth Forum, Kent 2012 group, Kent Sports Development Unit, Hayesbrook School Sports College and West Kent College. The Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling has been confirmed to attend the event.

1.4 Future Plans

1.4.1 There is a possibility that the Festival of Sport could become an annual event providing further opportunities to increase sports participation leading up to the London Olympics in 2012. This is dependant upon future funding and support from the organisations involved. Tonbridge School have already given their support to future events at the School.

1.5 Legal Implications

1.5.1 None.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.6.1 The majority of the cost relating to hire of facilities will be met from the Tonbridge Lions Club. The remainder can be met from existing revenue budgets, however, a funding bid has also been submitted to the Kent Sports Development Unit for additional funds for the event.

1.7 Risk Assessment

1.7.1 None.

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 Community, Young People

Background papers:

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File SD.18

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