

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

12 December 2011

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 2012 OLYMPICS

Summary

This report updates Members on a number of events/activities taking place next year to celebrate the London 2012 Olympics.

1.1 Olympic Torch

- 1.1.1 On Friday 20 July 2012 the Olympic Torch Relay will be passing through Borough Green on its route from Maidstone to Guildford, and finally on to the Olympic Stadium in London for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games on 27 July. Borough Green was selected to host the Torch Relay by LOCOG (the Organising Body for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games), and is the only community within the Borough of Tonbridge and Malling to host the Olympic Torch Relay.
- 1.1.2 The timetable of the Torch Relay is carefully worked out by LOCOG, and is scheduled to arrive in Borough Green just after midday on Friday, 20 July. The Relay will last for just over eight minutes, and it is anticipated that three Torch Bearers will each run 300 metres carrying the Olympic Torch along the route through Borough Green. The names of the Torch Bearers will be released to the public in February next year, following a nomination process.
- 1.1.3 The Relay convoy will have fourteen vehicles, the Metropolitan Police security team will travel with the Torch, three presenting partner vehicles will travel out in front of the Torch, whipping up the crowd, with the convoy, followed by two buses to pick up and drop off the Torch Bearers when it is their turn to run. The responsibility for the Torch Relay as it passes through Borough Green rests with this Council and an Officer team has been established to oversee the event. Liaison is ongoing with the Police and Kent Highways and a detailed Event Management Plan will be developed. Liaison has taken place with local Members, Parish Councils and Schools and a newsletter was distributed to local residents and businesses to coincide with the announcement of the route on 7 November 2011. A copy of the newsletter is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

- 1.1.4 Whilst the cost of the Torch Relay is being met through corporate sponsorship, the costs of security, road closures, decorating the route in Borough Green etc, will be paid for by the Borough Council. It is anticipated that the total cost of this will be in the region of £15,000. I will update Members on arrangements for the Torch Relay at the next meeting of this Board.

1.2 Pre Training Camps

- 1.2.1 Tonbridge School will be hosting two major international teams for their training camps in the lead up to the London Olympic Games. Australia Athletics will be staying at the School and using the facilities on site. The Ukraine and Belarusian Judo Team will be staying at the School, but will be using the pavilion at Swanmead Sportsground to train, which is the home to the highly successful Tonbridge Judo Club. Having two Olympic teams staying and training in Tonbridge reflects the sporting profile of the town, and Tonbridge School is very keen to develop closer links with clubs in the community to maximise the legacy of opportunities linked to the Games.

1.3 Events

- 1.3.1 A major focus of the Olympic Games is young people, and many of the schools in the Borough have joined the "Get Set" programme to help celebrate the Games and encourage more young people to maintain a healthy lifestyle. A Secondary Schools Olympic event will be held at Tonbridge School on 25 June organised by The Hayesbrook School. A Primary Schools Olympics day event will be organised by Tonbridge School on Wednesday 4 July.
- 1.3.2 Hillview School will be organising a Tonbridge Arts Festival Olympics Opening Ceremony Event on 16 June with an "Arts in Tents" theme and song and dance productions by local schools. A Primary Schools Triathlon is also being planned organised by the local Schools Sports Partnership. The Council is working in partnership with Maidstone Borough Council to help stage a major triathlon event next summer. The proposal is for the swim element of the triathlon to take place in Leybourne Lakes Country Park, following which the athletes will cycle to Mote Park in Maidstone and then complete the final running stage.
- 1.3.3 The Council is actively supporting all the aforementioned events primarily through the Sports Development Officer, and it is envisaged that further events will be brought forward by other community groups over the next few months.

1.4 Sports Coach of the Year

- 1.4.1 Members will be aware that every year this Council presents an Award to the Sports Coach of the Year. To mark the Olympics it is the intention to add an additional category to the Awards focussing on volunteers involved in the organisation/administration of sport in the Borough. It is felt that this group of people are very much the "unsung heroes" behind many of the clubs and sporting activities taking place, and it would be appropriate to recognise their valuable

contribution. Revised criteria will be developed over the next few weeks with regard to the Awards and the initiative will be marketed in the New Year. Members may recall that a panel comprising the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts, the current holder of the Sports Coach of the Year, the Chairman of Tonbridge Sports Association and the Sports Development Officer meet as a panel to consider the Awards and make recommendations to this Board

1.5 Fields in Trust

- 1.5.1 The Queen Elizabeth II Challenge, administered by Fields in Trust and headed by its Patron, Prince William, aims to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities across the country as a permanent living legacy of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.
- 1.5.2 As previously reported to Members of the Board on the 1 March 2011, the Borough Council is seeking the designation of a number of sites in Tonbridge within its ownership under the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge; these being Priory Wood, Frogsbridge Sportsground, Woodland Walk and Scotchers Field. In regard to these sites, draft Deeds of Dedication have been received and, subject to liaison with the Council's Chief Solicitor, are due for signature and completion.
- 1.5.3 In addition, Fields in Trust has advised on a number of other site nominations received from Parish/Town Councils within our borough and include, Addington, East Peckham, Mereworth, Platt, Snodland and Wateringbury.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.6.1 The Council has entered into a formal contract with LOCOG for the Olympic Torch Relay travelling through Borough Green. The agreement sets out clear roles and responsibilities for the Borough Council, which will be delivered through the Event Management Plan outlined earlier in this report.

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.7.1 The costs associated with the Olympic Torch Relay as it travels through the Borough are estimated to be in the region of £15,000 and to be met from the General Revenue Reserve or alternative funding to be identified in due course. The costs associated with supporting the events outlined in the report will be met from within existing revenue budgets.

1.8 Risk Assessment

- 1.8.1 The Olympic Torch Relay through Borough Green will be managed by a detailed Event Management Plan which will be submitted to the Safety Advisory Group for comment. The Council's Health and Safety Officer is a member of the Officer Group overseeing the delivery of the event.

1.9 Policy Considerations

1.9.1 Community, Health and Safety, Healthy Lifestyles, Young People.

Background papers:

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Nil

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