

Subject: Sports Facilities Update
Date of Meeting: 1st April 2010
Report of: The Director of Environment
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested an update on the management and development of sports facilities in the city. This follows a previous report on an audit of sports facilities for the city.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the improvements that have been made in relation to sports facilities in the city over the past year.
- 2.2 Members agree to receive a presentation at a future meeting from Mytime Active regarding their plans for the management and development of the Council's golf courses.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation and considered a report at a meeting on 13 November 2008 regarding an audit of sports facilities across the city.
- 3.2 The audit indicated the need to work towards increasing the number of sports facilities in the city, improving the quality of existing facilities and increasing the accessibility to existing facilities. This report provides an update of progress that has been made over the past year in these three areas.

Free Swimming Initiative

- 3.3 BHCC is one of only two local authorities in Sussex to sign up to the Free Swimming Initiative for both under 16s and 60+.
- 3.4 Figures up to the end of December 2009 showed 30,000 60+ swims and 41,000 under 16 swims at King Alfred, PRSC and St Luke's since the scheme started in April 09. This represents a 14% increase on the previous year for 60+ swims and a 17% increase in under 16 swims.
- 3.5 As a further incentive, there is now funding available to deliver a programme of free swimming lessons to non-swimmers 11 years old and over. These are set to be introduced in March 2010 and are being progressed in liaison with the Amateur Swimming Association Regional Coordinator and DC Leisure/King Alfred Swimming Lessons Coordinators. The programme will also be promoted via the Council's sports and community development workers.

Golf Courses Management Contract

- 3.6 During 2009, a procurement exercise was undertaken to appoint an external operator for Hollingbury Park and Waterhall Golf Courses. Mytime Active was appointed as the preferred operator on a ten year contract starting 1 April 2010. The TUPE of staff and handover of equipment is progressing currently.
- 3.7 Mytime Active has pledged to invest in the clubhouses at both courses to include the installation of raised decked areas (subject to appropriate planning permission) and internal redecoration. The practice areas are also to be developed to include practice bunkers and chipping greens. Further improvements include the installation of simulator rooms at Hollingbury Park designed to provide state of the art teaching facilities. There will be considerable investment into new green-keeping equipment and expert guidance available from a dedicated regional course manager. Staff will also receive additional training to ensure the courses are maintained to the required standards.
- 3.8 Mytime Active is committed to delivering a Golf Development Plan through the establishment of a Brighton & Hove Golf Academy. This is designed to introduce more people to the sport and provide expert coaching advice, helping to increase levels of participation and membership. They will be working closely with BHCC and the Schools Sport Partnership to deliver an outreach programme into local schools.
- 3.9 Mytime Active will take over the food, beverage and function operation at the two clubhouses and provide a varied menu to include breakfast, light snacks and main meals together with tailored options for functions.

King Alfred Leisure Centre

- 3.10 The work identified under the Health & Safety Works Contract is now nearing completion. The vast majority of the extensive works have been undertaken and a few examples are detailed below.
- 3.11 Structural repairs have been undertaken to the parapets, stonework and brickwork and wall ties replaced. Flat roof areas have been resurfaced and guttering repaired, new safety rails installed and skylights replaced.
- 3.12 The Centre's electrical distribution boards have been upgraded and both sports halls rewired and re-lamped. The bowls hall has also been re-lamped. New emergency lighting units have been installed throughout the building, the main pool filters have been refurbished and the old calorifiers replaced.
- 3.13 The entrance foyer, reception and sports hall corridor have been redecorated and new carpet and tiling laid. The pool spectator area has also been re-carpeted and a new safety barrier installed.
- 3.14 There remain a series of potential improvement works. These include the relocation of the Fitness Suite to the old café area, improved and updated external signage, improvements to the pool changing area and the possible installation of some new features in the pool.

Sports Facilities Management Contract

- 3.15 The current management contract with DC Leisure Ltd to operate Prince Regent Swimming Complex (PRSC), Withdean Sports Complex (WSC), Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre (MCLC), Stanley Deason Leisure Centre (SDLC) and St Luke's Swimming Pool runs until 31 March 2011. The new contract starting 1 April 2011 will be subject to review in the coming months.
- 3.16 Throughput across the DC Leisure sites was 642,500 up to the end of January 2010. This represents an increase of 11,000 visits (1.75%) compared to the same period last year. These additional visits have come primarily from Swimming and Health & Fitness.
- 3.17 All sites have now received 'Highly Commended' accreditation under QUEST, the UK quality scheme for sport and leisure. WSC obtained a score of 81% (improvement of 5% from previous assessment) following a two day assessment in Aug 2009. PRSC and MCLC scored 76% and 79% respectively in November 2009 (improvements of 6% and 5% from their previous assessments.) SDLC's assessment was cancelled

in Jan 2010 due to bad weather and we are awaiting a rescheduled date. Out of the 929 UK sites now registered under Quest, WSC is ranked the highest and is in the top 10%.

- 3.18 Facility improvements undertaken at PRSC included new flooring and exercise equipment in the fitness suite, new starting blocks and electronic timing equipment for the main pool and improvements to accessible changing area and pool access. The meeting rooms at the Slipper Baths were redecorated. A new Spinning studio was installed at MCLC through the conversion of disused storage cupboards.
- 3.19 Customer Satisfaction surveys were carried out in 2009 at all of the sites operated by DC Leisure. Satisfaction ratings were as follows:
- PRSC – 77% (up 6% from 2008)
WSC – 79% (up 4% from 2008)
SDLC – 83% (down 6% from 2008)
MCLC – 86% (no change from 2008)
- 3.20 Officers have been working on plans to refurbish the changing rooms and reception area at St Luke's Swimming Pool. The project will create an open-plan, mixed changing village with individual cubicles to aid privacy, new toilets and showers, family changing cubicles and improved heating and ventilation. There will be additional external works to improve access/egress for disabled users and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) improvements made to the reception area.
- 3.21 A feasibility study was undertaken in consultation with Sport England, the Amateur Swimming Association and the Council's Property & Design service to develop the proposed layout of the changing rooms. A budget estimate of £300,000 was formulated which includes £50,000 for DDA works to the reception area. The proposed works are to be funded through a Sport England grant (£175,000), DDA budget (£70,000) and the Council / DC Leisure Income Share (£55,000). The project will take approximately 12 weeks and is scheduled to start in early June to minimise disruption to school use.

Building Schools for the Future

- 3.22 A pilot Playing Field Strategy has been undertaken by an external consultant to form part of the Council's Readiness to Deliver document. The Strategy was undertaken in consultation with Sport England and covers the four secondary schools identified in phase one of the Readiness to Deliver document. These are Portslade Community College, Blatchington Mill High School, Patcham High School and Hove Park High School.

- 3.23 Upon invitation onto the BSF programme, a steering group will be established with representatives from the Council, Sussex County Sports Partnership and Sport England.

Nevill Recreation Ground / Blatchington Mill School

- 3.24 Brighton & Hove Hockey Club, in partnership with Blatchington Mill School, have recently submitted a bid to England Hockey to help fund the construction of two all weather pitches on the school site. The Council has assisted with the preparation of this funding bid.
- 3.25 The three clubs that use the Nevill Recreation Ground (Brighton & Hove Cricket Club, Brighton & Hove Hockey Club and AFC Brighton) have joined up to create a single Nevill Sports Company (limited by guarantee) with the individual clubs sitting below this. This will promote close partnership working between the clubs and is likely to enable them to be more successful in attracting external funding.
- 3.26 Nevill Sports Company has advised the Council of outline plans to build a new clubhouse and have requested an extension to the current lease. The Council is happy to consider an extension upon receipt of a full business case and long-term proposal for the development of the site.

Manor Road Gym

- 3.27 The Manor is currently operating as a 'tenant at will' under a short-term arrangement.
- 3.28 Heads of Terms of a 25 year lease were agreed with The Manor in 2008. Negotiations relating to the granting of the lease stalled partly due to the lack of progress on the FA funded Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) project but it was agreed in Dec 09 to proceed with the lease based on the previously agreed Heads of Terms. The Council are currently awaiting further information from The Manor in order to proceed.

Falmer Stadium / Withdean Stadium

- 3.29 The construction of Brighton & Hove Albion's (BHA) new £93 million stadium in Falmer is progressing well and is on course for its scheduled completion in May 2011.
- 3.30 The stadium has a capacity of 22,500 seats but also has 9 main hospitality suites enabling it to operate as a major new conferencing and banqueting venue for the City.

- 3.31 In addition to this the Club is looking at providing 1,800 sq metres of educational space under the East Stand which will be let as educational space and supporting office space. The Club is currently seeking interest from educational and youth service partners who would be interested in using this space.
- 3.32 The Council's Sports Facilities Manager is currently liaising with representatives from BHA and the athletics clubs based at Withdean Stadium regarding the handover of facilities when BHA move to the new stadium.

County Cricket Ground

- 3.33 The Council have granted planning permission for Sussex County Cricket Club's three phase development programme for the County Ground. The development works are expected to be completed ready for the start of the 2011 season.
- 3.34 A new groundsman's facility is to be built at the north end of the ground and the Gilligan Stand at the south end is to be demolished and rebuilt to include changing facilities, press and media centre and training facilities. A new stand and club reception will be built in the south-west corner of the ground and permanent hospitality facilities installed in the south-east corner. New floodlights are also to be installed and the existing pavilion refurbished.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation was undertaken with facility operators, sports clubs and Sport England to aid the developments outlined in this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted *Name* Derek Mansfield *Date* 4 March 2010

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this information report, but the specific legal implications of each matter referred to in this report

have been or will be addressed at the appropriate time in appropriate reports. For example various TUPE, procurement and possession issues were addressed in relation to the decision to go out to tender on the Golf Courses Management Contract and were reviewed at Cabinet and Scrutiny meetings and the proposals relating to Nevill Recreation Ground and Blatchington Mill School are still being worked up and will be the subject of future reports.

Lawyer Consulted
2010

Name Bob Bruce

Date 4 March

5.3 Equalities Implications

A wide range of accessible sports facilities across the city will reduce inequality of opportunity.

5.4 Sustainability Implications

Any new sports facility development will need to meet the appropriate sustainability requirements.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications

Projects have shown that providing sporting opportunities can help reduce crime within geographical areas. Therefore the provision of good quality, accessible facilities could have a positive impact on the reduction of crime in the city.

5.6 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

The provision of good quality, accessible facilities will provide maximum opportunity for usage.

5.7 Corporate/Citywide Implications

The development of facilities across the city will help to ensure all communities have the opportunity to participate in sporting activities.

