



# FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

CIVIC OFFICES CIVIC WAY FAREHAM HAMPSHIRE

## Minutes of the Leisure Overview Panel

*Minutes of a meeting held on 23 July 2003  
at the Civic Offices, Fareham*

**PRESENT:**

T G Knight  
(Chairman)

J V Bryant  
(Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:** Mrs J M Eastman, Mrs M E Ellerton, J S Forrest, Mrs M R Nadolski  
and R H Price

**Also Present** Councillor: Mrs C L A Hockley (Executive Member for Leisure)

### 1. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Overview Panel held on 28 May 2003 be confirmed and signed as a correct record ([le-030528-m](#)).

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made an announcement on the following matters:-

- (i) On behalf of the Leisure Overview Panel, the Chairman had attended the Art in the Park (Bringing Art and Parks Together) event which took place at Ferneham Hall, Fareham on 4 July 2003. Mr Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer was congratulated for his work in setting up this event.
- (ii) Referring to the report on Hunts Pond Road Recreation Ground – Changing Facilities which was considered at the last Panel

meeting on 28 May 2003, members were informed that arising from correspondence from Hampshire County Council planning officers and the Borough Council's planning officers, it was noted that the site was still identified as a provisional school site.

- (iii) At the club's invitation, a number of Panel members made a visit to Fareham Heathens Rugby Football Club on Tuesday evening, 22 July 2003. It was reported to have been a very informative visit and officers were requested to send a letter of thanks to the club officials.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Standing Orders and the Council's Code of Conduct, the following members declared a personal interest in the matters indicated:

Councillor	Subject	Minute No/ Nature of Interest
J V Bryant	Henry Cort School – Community Football Project  Motion to Council – Community Development in Fareham	6. (Governor of Henry Cort School and Chairman of Henry Cort Community Management Committee)  7. (Member of the Management Committee of Fareham Community Action (appointed by Hampshire County Council))
Mrs M E Ellerton	Motion to Council – Community Development in Fareham	7. (Council representative on Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau)
J S Forrest	Seafield Park – Progress Report	5. (Trustee of Hammond Hall)
T G Knight	Seafield Park – Progress Report	7. (Trustee of Hammond Hall)

### 4. PRESENTATION – SEAFIELD PARK

The Panel received a presentation from Mr Mick Patterson, Head of Parks, Open Spaces and Amenities and Mr Charlie Read, Sports and Arts Development Officer, regarding Seafield Park. They were joined by Mr Jan Rowles, Football Adviser and Director of Fareham Soccer Academy and Ms Lindsay McCulloch, Countryside Officer.

Mr Patterson advised the Panel that the purpose of the presentation was to bring members' up to date on progress towards the Council's ownership of the site and the possible facilities that could be made available. The Panel was advised that the Council had identified a number of needs which could be summarised as follows:-

- To promote and encourage involvement by schools and community education establishments to meet the criteria highlighted in the National Schools Curriculum for Sport and Education.
- To develop participation in the management of sports facilities by user groups and the local community with a specific objective to develop its Leisure Strategy whilst identifying further the needs of the community.
- To produce a programme of sporting activities to cater for the widest range of potential users within the community, irrespective of age, gender, ethnic origin or disability embracing all principles of the Sports Council Sports Equality Policy.
- To provide after school club and holiday sporting activities for all the community promoted through the strategic use of grant aid.

The proposed four options for the type of facilities which may be put on the site were identified, although it was noted that these options are subject to an on-site feasibility study and will be updated as grant aid and funding is secured. The officers went on to discuss the fundamental requirements of the project which included financial support, producing football, cricket and tennis development plans/programmes, involving the community, promoting club development and increasing partnerships in sport. Mr Rowles addressed the Panel giving an outline of what is required to be done to progress the proposed bid for financial support from the Football Foundation. Members were advised that the four options referred to above all met with the criteria for Football Foundation funding and that by working closely with local teams and sporting organisations it was hoped that the proposals for the site would be ready to be presented to the Football Foundation within the next six months. Mr Rowles explained the Football Foundation's Assessment Process and the timescales involved.

Mr Read continued the presentation with a brief overview of the proposals for cricket pitches and tennis courts, as described in the accompanying report to the Panel (see minute 5 below). Ms McCulloch gave more detailed information about the provisions that will be made on the site for the protection of the badger setts and the maintenance of a nature conservation area on the eastern boundary. Reference was made to a number of other matters which, members were reminded, had been covered more fully in the report. These included:-

- Possible community facilities on the site.
- Car parking and access.
- Planning implications.
- Financial implications.

In conclusion, Mr Patterson summarised the various issues that had been raised in the presentation and which remained to be resolved and progressed, principally:

- The preparation of funding bids.
- Progressing the formation of partnerships.
- Consideration of future management proposals.

It was AGREED that both the officers and Mr Rowles be thanked for a very informative and comprehensive presentation.

## 5. SEAFIELD PARK – PROGRESS REPORT

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Environment regarding progress relating to the formal adoption of the open space at Seafield Park by the Council and the facilities for the site (copy of report [le-030723-r01-cre](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

At the invitation of the Chairman, the following representatives addressed the Panel and raised questions on a number of matters referred to in the presentation, (see minute 4 above), and in the report:-

Mr M Stratton-Brown – Chairman Hill Head Residents Association  
Mr M Burlingham – Secretary, The Seafarers Sailing Club  
Mr G Ford – Meon Valley Football League  
Mr J Mundy – Crofton Saints Football Club

Concerns were expressed about the potential future restriction on dog walking once the pitches had been laid out and the “dog-free” zones established to ensure the protection of badger activity. The Panel was informed that when the site is acquired by the Council it will become public open space and as such the facility for dog walking would be maintained within limits, restrictions having only to be imposed on certain identified areas.

Members were generally in favour of the proposed sports changing pavilion (a copy of the plans were on display for members’ information). The Panel was reminded that modern sports pavilions have to meet a range of criteria eg. be able to accommodate mixed gender use both by players and officials, as well as satisfying the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. It was noted that the pavilion design proposals would form an important part of the bid for possible funding opportunities.. The Panel considered the implications arising from the possible provision of cricket and tennis facilities on the site, as had been outlined in the report. In response to an enquiry about maintaining the standard of the (former MOD) football pitches, Mr Patterson replied that there would be a development plan for the site and measures would be taken to get the site in order once the Council took possession of the land. One representative indicated that they would like to see a mini soccer pitch provided on the site as there was not one available anywhere else in the Borough.

Discussion continued concerning pedestrian access at the southern end of the site and the Panel was advised that officers would be seeking highways advice about access points and measures to ensure safe access and egress to the beach, across Salterns Road. It was noted that once the formal adoption of the open space had taken place, it was expected that horticultural

work on the site, including erecting fencing etc, would commence as soon as possible.

It was AGREED that the Executive be informed that in the Panel's view:-

- (i) the views and comments raised at the meeting, as detailed above, be noted;
- (ii) consultation should take place with football, cricket and tennis clubs about the proposed sports facilities;
- (iii) officers be requested to progress the Football Foundation Bid for financial support for the Seafield Park Development;
- (iv) a further report be made to a future meeting of the Panel, to update members on progress; and
- (v) the principle of the development of the site for the provision of recreational facilities, as identified in the report, be supported.

## **6. HENRY CORT SCHOOL – COMMUNITY FOOTBALL PROJECT**

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Environment which reviewed the latest position in respect of the Henry Cort School community football project (copy of report [le-030723-r03-cre](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

In general, a number of members raised their concerns regarding the provision of car parking, which, it was noted, had also featured as a main concern of people who had responded to the public consultation exercise. In particular the view was expressed that the additional pitches may encourage more evening use which would put a greater burden on the capacity of the car park to accommodate additional vehicles. Arising from this matter discussion also took place relating to the current bus routes to the site. The Panel was advised that the issue of adequate car parking could be highlighted when the terms of the revised Management Agreement are negotiated.

During the course of debate, it was reported that Councillor Davies was seeking management arrangements for a woodland area known as Henry Cort Copse, located to the south of the school site. It was suggested that officers investigate this further with the school governing body and Hampshire County Council.

It was AGREED that the Executive be informed that in the Panel's view:-

- (i) the information contained in the report, including the findings of the consultation exercise and the proposals concerning the Management Agreement be noted; and
- (ii) concerns raised regarding adequate car parking be taken into account when the terms of the revised Management Agreement are negotiated.

## **7. MOTION TO COUNCIL – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN FAREHAM**

The Panel was informed that at the meeting of the Council on 19 June 2003, notice of the following motion had been given by Councillor R H Price:-

“That this Council investigate the building of a purpose-built facility to house the Fareham Citizens’ Advice Bureau, Fareham Community Action and an Ecology Centre and, on the same site, construct a new Fareham Community Centre. These buildings should be built on the site which at present comprises the Kings Road Assembly Hall and the current Fareham Community Centre.”

In accordance with Standing Orders, the motion stood referred to the Executive at its meeting on 4 August, 2003, and this Panel (along with the Policy Strategy and Finance Overview Panel) had been invited to consider the matter and forward any views to the Executive.

Councillor Price explained to the members his reason for submitting the motion which was then debated by members, insofar as it related to the terms of reference of the Panel. A proposal to support the motion subject to some revision of its wording was debated by members.

It was AGREED that the Executive be informed that in the Panel’s view the motion should be supported, subject to revision of its wording by inserting after the words “investigate” the words “feasibility of” and deleting the words “of” (after “building”), “on the same site construct” and “These buildings should be built”.

(Voting 6 for; 0 against).

## **8. TOON CUP**

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Environment which invited the Panel’s views on the entries for the annual Toon Cup Award (copy of report [le-030723-r05-cre](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

It was noted that following consideration of the applications and determination of the “preferred choice” by the Panel, a decision on the matter would be made by the Executive at its meeting on 4 August 2003. The Panel was informed that the presentation of the Toon Cup had been arranged for Tuesday 4 September 2003.

It was AGREED that the Executive be advised of the Panel’s recommended choice of club to be awarded the Toon Cup for 2003.

## **9. OVERVIEW PANEL WORK PROGRAMME – 2003/2004**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Environment regarding the Panel’s Work Programme for 2003/2004 (copy of

report [le-030723-r06-jke](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

Consideration was given to a proposal that an additional "floating list" of items be identified for inclusion in the current year's programme (but not allocated to the work programme for a specific Panel meeting). Members discussed a various matters that it was felt could be put on the "floating list".

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that, (as described above), an additional list of items to be considered in 2003/2004, be set up;
- (ii) that the item on Hammond Hall (currently in the work programme for the meeting on 17 September 2003) be added to the additional list and, if appropriate, considered in relation to any further reports on the adoption of the open space at Seafield Park;
- (iii) that an item on the possible leasing of part of the Cams Alders site by Fareham Heathens Rugby Football Club be added to the additional list; and
- (iv) that, subject to the matters referred to in (i), (ii) and (iii) above, the Panel's Work Programme schedule for 2003/2004 (as detailed in the report) be endorsed.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm  
and ended at 8.50 pm)