



**Service Delivery
Committee**

**Tuesday, 11 October
2016**

**Matter for Information
and Decision**

Title: Leisure Services Update

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1. Introduction

This report provides Members with an update on the Council's Leisure Services, including the Leisure Contract; the Health & Wellbeing Board; Sport & Physical Activity Commissioning grant; Brocks Hill Country Park & Centre; and Pride of the Borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the progress in relation to Leisure Services.
- 2.2 That Members consider the quotes submitted in order to increase car parking spaces at Brocks Hill/Parklands Leisure Centre and provide their approval to progress.

3. Information

3.1 Leisure Contract

Participation

Participation has substantially increased since the launch of the new Wigston Pool and Fitness Centre and the redeveloped Parklands Leisure Centre. There have been over 244,000 visits in the period April to July, which equates to more than 2,000 per day!

Currently 1,400 children and adults are learning to swim every week, with swimming participation reaching 75,000 for the whole period.

There are more than 150 exercise classes and 38 activity sessions every week, including kurling, cheerleading, baby ballet, martial arts and trampolining.

This period has also seen the launch of a Sports Development and Reducing Health Inequalities plans, specifically aimed at increasing participation of targeted community groups such as disabled people; those referred by their GP for health issues; children and young people; older adults, and those economically disadvantaged.

Sessions include:

- Girls Activity Lifestyle classes
- Strong & Steady falls prevention course
- Fitter, Leaner, Stronger training classes
- Messy Play for U5's
- Free school summer holiday swimming sessions
- Free disabled swimming sessions
- Educational and activity sessions specifically for diabetes sufferers

Customer Feedback

Customer feedback has been extremely positive, on three fronts:

1. The quality of the new buildings and the facilities, in particular the swimming pools and gyms.
2. The wide variety and number of activities on offer.
3. The staff who deliver the activities.

New Staff / Posts

Many new posts have been introduced with more swim teachers, coaches, kids activity leaders and an Active Communities post which is dedicated to increasing participation in targeted community groups.

Building Works

The only remaining work is the landscaping outside the gym at Parklands, which will be completed in the near future, in addition to repairing the potholes on the approach road.

Events

There have been a number of events in the period, for example:

- ASA club swimming galas
- Mayor Making
- Elections
- Queen's 90th Birthday Open Day celebration
- Blood Bank
- Weddings
- Breast Care unit stationed at Parklands

3.2 Oadby and Wigston Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB):

Oadby and Wigston Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) has recently gone through a re-structure. Whilst the HWBB does not have any funding to support or deliver projects, the aim of this group is to bring key decision makers together from a range of local health providers to review local health data, share information on service provision and lobby for change.

Each planned meeting will concentrate on a particular area of health. The meeting on 12 July 2016 focused on Dementia and Mental Health. Specialist health and community representatives from this area of work were invited to attend the meeting. Information gathered will be shared via a new on-line portal in order to provide a directory of services. This will be available to members of the public, health professionals including doctors in order to aid signposting to appropriate local services.

Councillor Ernie White and Mike Sandys (County Health & Wellbeing Board) also attended the meeting to provide a County update. Topics included Transforming Health and Care across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland; the National requirements of the Better Care Fund; and an overview of the Leicestershire Integration Plan 2016/17.

The next HWBB meeting on 11 October will focus on Diabetes and Healthy Weight.

3.3 2016/17 Sport & Physical Activity Commissioning

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, on behalf of the locality has been successful in drawing down a total of £106,000 external funding and partnership contributions to

deliver targeted sport and physical activity interventions across the borough. The following information provides a brief update on progress to date and future plans.

April – September

Priority Neighbourhoods

Boxercise and Streetdance sessions were delivered at St Thomas Church in South Wigston for children 6-16 in collaboration with a number of partners. The two 10 week blocks have been extremely successful with up to 55 young people attending each session on a weekly basis. Consultation is taking place with young people to influence future projects.

A range of activities were organised for residents on Bennett Way in South Wigston to try, such as arts/crafts, total wipeout, boxing and a mobile skate park. The event was well received by residents with over 75 attendees between 1 - 4pm. However some weekly multisport sessions delivered at Blaby Road Park, were not as well attended.

Cycling

Mere Lane Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Oadby was commissioned to deliver 5 led Mountain Bike sessions, in line with the cycling target set by Leicestershire and Rutland Sport (LRS). Unfortunately only half the available 40 places were taken up, so consultation is taking place to improve attendance in the future. OWBC is currently working with British Cycling Ride Leaders to develop led road cycle rides in other parts of the borough.

BME Engagement

We are continuing on from the positive work carried out last year in partnership with the Oadby Muslim Association and the Oadby Oshwal Association in developing sustainable sport and physical activity sessions. The groups have been given the opportunity to bid for funding to enable them to increase physical activity participation.

Women from both groups have attended an LRS programme to get more women into leadership roles within Sport and Physical Activity. In addition, we are currently engaging with the residents of Kennedy House in South Wigston, with a view to either developing regular sustainable sports sessions or assist them to access existing provision.

FliC – Weight Management Programme for Families

Our second and final FliC programme is nearly complete. Held at the Freer Centre in Wigston this intervention has proved very successful, with around 8 families accessing both groups. Most of the children attending have also continued to participate in regular community sessions in the borough.

LEAP – Weight Management Programme for Adults

Our LEAP sessions have continued to be well attended on a weekly basis with around 12-15 participants each week.

FaME – Falls Prevention Programme

This research programme aims to engage with residents who have balance issues or who are at risk of falling. Both FaME programmes are running to capacity with 14

participants attending each course each week. We are currently working with our leisure provider to sustain the sessions after the funding finishes in December.

Rounders

Our Summer Family Rounders sessions have been a great success with over 30 people attending each week. They were held at Blaby Road Park in South Wigston on a weekly basis. We are currently looking to continue this popular activity 'indoors' during the winter months.

September – December

Back to Sport

We are planning to start 'Back to Sport' sessions aimed at those who used to play sports at school/college and would like to return to a non competitive style activity. The sports currently being planned from October are Football, Tennis, Touch Rugby, Cricket and Basketball. These will be held at various locations, times and days across the borough therefore giving residents multiple opportunities to get involved.

Retirement Project

In October and November we are launching a range of Sport and Physical Activity sessions across the borough aimed at residents who are 50+. Some of these sessions will be slower versions of formal sports games, such as Walking Cricket and Walking Football. In addition, a range of fishing events will be organised to build on the success of last year's pilot.

Diabeters

Following on from the 'Diabeters' pilot project held in January this year, our leisure provider will now continue to organise the physical activity and nutrition programme from September, for residents who have been diagnosed with type 2 Diabetes.

Paralympics Campaign Week

Oadby and Wigston are part of a countywide campaign to promote existing disability specific or inclusive sessions within the borough, to coincide with the Rio Paralympics.

Workplace Challenge – Internal

The Leisure Team will be running another staff health event, in conjunction with HR, in October. This is continuing on from the successful event last year which saw 50 members of staff sign-up for the Workplace Challenge programme. The 2017 Workplace Challenge starts in January and runs for 2 months.

Workplace Challenge – External

We are looking to engage with new businesses across the borough, with a view to recruiting 10 new Workplace Challenge Champions. These champions will promote the benefits of health to their colleagues and will set up sessions and events at their workplace. We will offer £100 in funding to every company that joins the scheme, to help kick start the activities.

Oadby and Wigston 2016 Awards Evening

Our annual Oadby and Wigston Awards Evening will be held on Wednesday 23rd

November at Parklands Leisure Centre in Oadby. A range of community, sport and physical activity awards will be presented on the night.

New Recruitment:

OWBC has recruited a new Legacy Maker, utilising £13,000 of the Commissioning funding, plus partnership funding from the Council and University of Leicester. Megan Whittington joined the Council in July 2016. She will coordinate national programmes at the local level, in line with additional Sport England funding yet to be drawn down. Megan will also compliment the work of the Physical Activity Coordinator, Kane Radford, whose post is also funded from the Commissioning grant.

3.4 Brocks Hill Update

Interim Arrangements

Casey Humphreys (Natural Discovery Volunteer Development Project Officer) handed in her notice in July. She started a new job at the Ibstock School Hub on 1st September. Coincidentally, Nick Hague (Ranger) was head-hunted by GC Landscape Management Ltd of Copt Oak, as their new Operations Manager. Both officers left the authority on 17th & 18th August 2016 respectively. OWBC is currently progressing replacements for both officers.

In the lead up to the departure of both officers a range of meetings and hand-over sessions were held, to ensure the continuation of the volunteer programme and ensure maintenance arrangements were in place for the country park. This includes meetings with the Brocks Hill volunteering group to ensure they were informed of the interim changes and provided with an opportunity to raise questions.

Wednesday 24 August was the first volunteer day, working with the new interim arrangements. This was a successful day both in terms of collaborative working between volunteers and ground maintenance and achieving improvements to the country park.

Greening of the Borough Projects

Pochins Bridge - A regular bird survey and working group has been established, unfortunately the proposed 'Friends Group' has been put on hold due to a lack of interest. However the current volunteers are happy to stay as a group.

Fludes Lane - Natural Discovery Volunteer Development Project (NDVDP) has carried out a number of wildlife surveys with volunteers. A number of practical days have also taken place; these included footpath clearance and litter picking activities.

Brocks Hill Country Park and Habitat Management - Routine conservation management of the site has taken place. This includes footpath work, grass management and general site maintenance. A new staff parking area has been created. This has included a new raised flower bed which has been planted with roses and bulbs, to soften the visual aspects of the area.

Activities Officer Update: School Visits

From the start of the financial year in April, school visits generated an income of £4357.00 to the end of the summer. The most popular activity was pond dipping with shelter building being the second favourite.

Nature canvasses, made up by our volunteers, have worked very well with 284 sold for schools. The nature canvasses have also sold well over the summer holiday and

encourage children to look more closely at the environment.

Summer Holiday Activities

Summer holiday activities such as 'Pondamonium' have continued to encourage youngsters to learn more about creatures living in the environment. In fact, at the last pond dipping session on Friday 12 August, the adults declared they had enjoyed the session and had learnt a lot too.

As usual, most of the children's activities involved a walk in the Country Park for inspiration or to learn about the environment and, where possible, resources were from re-used or natural sources. Also scrap pieces of paper and card were recycled during the activity, thus, modelling good ethical ideas for children's activities.

In July alone, Courses and Events generated an income of £1551.00 bringing the total this year to £3,280.00 so far. The Activities Officer will review the summer activities to help plan next year's events.

Sustainable Food Production

The Borough of Oadby and Wigston has been given approval to call the food group 'Incredible Edible'. A number of groups have converged and are working together to deliver sustainable food production across the borough. Some of the individuals groups are more advanced than others, as confirmed in the report below.

By being an Incredible Edible group there are 3 'spinning plates' that must be adhered to, these are:

1. Community – the community must be involved in all aspects of the work, planting, growing, eating etc and it must also have a positive effect on the community. Currently various different groups across the Borough have come together as one and projects have been undertaken at Boulter Crescent (outside the Community Flat and Bull Head St) and Wigston Library.

2. Business – local businesses are encouraged to get involved with the project by either supporting with donations, manpower or sponsoring a planter. It is understood that Sainsbury's has donated £50 to help towards buying watering cans for the different projects across the Borough. OWBC has also donated planters and these have been filled and planted with vegetables and fruit bushes at Bull Head St/Boulter Crescent.

3. Learning – there must be opportunities for people to learn about the project and that goes hand in hand with learning about healthier lifestyles, healthier eating and social cohesion. Discussions are taking place with representatives from the Food Banks about the possibility of healthy cooking lessons taking place. The Master Gardeners have also been hugely influential with their knowledge and willingness to help out.

The Wigston arm of the Incredible Edible group has got off to a good start with three areas where food is being grown. South Wigston has plans to plant at the Bassett St Hub and Kirkdale Road but these are awaiting the go ahead. Oadby does not have a specific group set up, however Malcolm Brown has opened up part of his front garden to the public to help themselves to herbs etc. Locations still need to be mapped and decided on with regards to Oadby.

There have been many meetings over the past few months but these meetings have been more localised to each town, it is only within the past month that it has become an official 'Incredible Edible'. Since then there has been the Wigston Food Group,

South Wigston Food Group/Greenspace Group and other areas such as Boulter Crescent residents that have come together to join Incredible Edible.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Charnwood Food Volunteers will be assisting at Brocks Hill on 22 September 2016. A range of tasks have been planned for the group, including assisting with the woodland area, clearing branches and tree brash, in addition to replacing some older timbers in the den building area. They will also help tidy up the Country Park including cleaning the information boards around the site.

Brocks Hill Community Engagement

- Friends of Brocks Hill have continued to fundraise & promote the NDVD project
- Adult events are steadily building a profile, with good feedback and new visitors attracted.
- The Oadby Remembers event was a great success. Thanks go to all volunteers and staff for their input on the day.
- Continued working with Oadby and Wigston Lions for use of legacy money around the site to enhance facilities e.g. sculptures. These will now be placed around the throne and will be of a local stone construction.
- Social media: www.facebook.com/BrocksHillCountryPark has continued to increase the Brocks Hill marketing reach. There is significant engagement and sharing of page posts, with the page now having 2,401 followers (August 2016).

Visitor Figures for Brocks Hill are shown below, for May through to August 2016:

| | |
|--------|--------|
| May | 11,080 |
| June | 10,831 |
| July | 16,596 |
| August | 10,155 |

3.5 Pride of the Borough – Simon Lucas

Looking back over the past 12 months we can reflect on a number of notable achievements:

The continued success of our Membership card scheme. In our 1st year (2015) we had 466 members, to date (30/8/16) the figure for 2016 is 571. As you would expect the majority are residents of Oadby & Wigston, however there are a number from neighbouring districts, villages etc. which means people coming into our towns to spend their money!

Our bulb planting projects continues with more spring flowering bulbs being planted by volunteers including Scouts, Guides, Rotary Clubs, Church Groups and residents (having responded to a letter drop) who are 'just' planting the verge outside their home.

We are entering the 2nd year of the Take Pride campaign which aims to raise the awareness of litter and encourage people not to drop it in the first place, but take it home and to spread the message to friends and neighbours.

We have started to have regular monthly working groups on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Tasks undertaken so far range from helping claim back over grown areas to litter picking. Litter picking is targeted to areas identified by Brian Kew as being

problematic for his staff, they then collect the bagged up waste. Naturally bulb planting is a future task when we hope to encourage more people to get involved.

We are proud to organise the boroughs entry into East Midlands in Bloom. This highlights the partnership between the council (in particular the Clean & Green Team) and volunteers and brings together all the volunteer environmentally based work that goes on in the borough. This year's tour quite literally went to all corners of the Borough and through all 3 town centres. The results/award will be confirmed mid-September, however whatever the results we will be celebrating our year at the Annual Awards and Celebration Evening on the 19th September.

We continue to organise a borough wide Floral Displays Competition encouraging people to plant up their front gardens, often with 'unusual containers' to help improve the look and feel of the borough. This year's most unusual container was a car!

We are also looking at other projects which include marking the Penfold in Wigston, and possibly Oadby's. Having remedial work done to the Wickham Fern (which has some rot in the base).

Floral Display Competition Winners:

Best Front Garden – Evelyn Brooker, Thirlmere Rd, Wigston

Best Container – Meg Hall off Launceston Rd Wigston

Young Person's Best Container – Theo Jaman, c/o Amanda Nunnley, The Elms Social Club

Most Unusual Container – J. Robinson, S Wigston

Best Business Floral Display – The Elms Social Club, Launceston Rd. Wigston

Most Environmentally Friendly garden - Ms Maureen Waugh, Thornby Gardens

3.6 Car Parking – Brocks Hill / Parklands Leisure Centre

The need to increase car parking spaces at Brocks Hill/ Parklands Leisure Centre has become apparent over the last year. The popularity of the leisure centre has increased with families and individuals of all ages wishing to access this superb facility. Brocks Hill's visitor numbers have also increased, particularly during the summer months.

Whilst this has been positive with regards to the leisure contract's profit share scheme, the negative impact has been the number of complaints received from people having difficulty parking on site.

As requested during the July Service Delivery Committee, the Health & Leisure Manager was tasked with gaining draft quotes to construct new parking spaces, on identified grass areas as agreed by Councillors.

This has now been actioned, and the draft information can be found in Appendix 1 of this report. It provides a map showing the identified areas together with draft costings and approximate number of car parking spaces the construction works might achieve. It also provides a comparison of a tarmac finish verses grasscrete. Please note that Area 2 (£5,400 to tarmac) has already received approval for capital funding in 2016/17.

- Members are being asked to provide their comments and approval to progress the draft quotes, through a formal Tendering process.
- Members are also asked to identify a budget that can be used to cover these costs.

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| Implications | |
|------------------------|--|
| Financial (CR) | The above schemes/projects can be met within budgetary provision including external funding/support identified, with the exception of the costs associated with increasing car parking spaces. |
| Legal (AC) | No significant implications, however planning will be applicable to increase car parking spaces. |
| Risk (AL) | CR1 - Decreasing Financial Resources CR8 - Organisational Change |
| Equalities (AL) | Current EIA Commissioning Action plan completed in July 2015. Next assessment due in 2018. Brocks Hill Equality Assessment completed June 2016. |
| | Equality Assessment:- |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Screening <input type="checkbox"/> Full Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

Appendix A:

Costs for additional car parking spaces – Brocks Hill / Parklands Leisure Centre:



| Location | Length (m) | Width (m) | Approx. No. of spaces | Cost for Tarmac finish | Cost for Grasscrete finish |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Area 1 | 13.4 | 33.5 | up to 22 | £38,500 | £45,000 |
| Area 2 | 15 | 5.7 | up to 5 | £5,400 (capital bid approved) | £6,300 |
| Area 3 | 20.2 | 15.3 | up to 12 | £28,500 | £33,000 |
| Area 4 | 58.5 | 13 | up to 30 | £65,220 | £75,150 |
| Area 5 (BHCP) | 5.5 | 5.5 | up to 9 | £2,600 | £3,000 |
| Total: | | | 78 | £140,220 | £162,450 |