



**Service Delivery
Committee**

**Tuesday, 21 March
2017**

**Matter for Information
and Decision**

Title: Leisure Services Report

Author: Avril Lennox MBE (Health & Leisure Services Manager)

1. Introduction

This report provides Members with an update on the Council's Leisure Services, which includes the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Leisure Contract; Sport & Physical Activity Commissioned activities and Brocks Hill Country Park & Centre.

2. Recommendations

That Members note the information provided within the report and endorse and promote the range of opportunities to the wider audience, including volunteering.

3. Information

3.1. Health & Wellbeing Board

The Oadby and Wigston Health & Wellbeing Board has recently undergone a restructure. Whilst it 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.

A core group of individuals attend each meeting; this includes Council Members, representation from our leisure provider, the Locality Lead Manager for East Leicestershire CCG, the GP Locality Lead in Oadby & Wigston, and a Senior Public Health Manager, plus a range of Council Officers. In addition, 'specialist' health professionals, private health operators, and providers are invited to attend the relevant health themed meetings.

Each of the quarterly meeting held so far, have concentrated on a particular area of health, in line with the Board's priorities for 2016/17, as shown below:

- 1. Dementia / Mental Health – July meeting**
- 2. Diabetes / Healthy Weight – October meeting**
- 3. Substance / Alcohol misuse – January meeting**

There is strategic fit with a number of agendas for example the County joint Health & Wellbeing strategy, the Sport & Physical Activity Commissioning work stream; the joint OWBC health inequalities Action Plan; and Sports Development plan; the Greening the Borough action plan including Conservation Volunteering; in addition to meeting a number of our Councillor's key priorities; the Council's Vision and Values, and the Local Sports and Active Recreation Alliance aims.

One of the early actions was to improve communication and to promote local health services. A dedicated online resource has now been set up, for use by Health Professionals, GP's and residents in order to provide information about local

opportunities and health related matters. This can be accessed via the following link:
www.activeoadbywigston.org.uk/health

One key area identified by the Oadby & Wigston HWBB is the need to help Public Health reduce the number of admissions to hospital. We will do this by educating local people to seek help early rather than late; as a first point of contact by using the 111 help line; using the Walk in Centres; taking advice from their local pharmacist; or their GP. It was noted that we all should be working towards encouraging a healthier community, where communities/individuals help themselves.

The final meeting will be held on 4 April 2017, and will act as the Board's Health Summit. All agencies and partners involved in the previous meetings will be invited to attend. This will provide an opportunity to evaluate what has been delivered and confirm whether expected outcomes have been achieved, as well as identifying and setting the locality priorities for 2017/18.

3.2. Leisure Contract

Participation

Participation has once again substantially increased since the launch of the new Wigston Pool and Fitness Centre and the redeveloped Parklands Leisure Centre. Whilst December was the quietest month of the year January, as expected, was the busiest with both Wigston Pool & Fitness Centre and Parklands Leisure Centre breaking all-time high participation records for the month. There have been nearly 128,000 visits in the period December to January, that's nearly 2,170 per day!

Programmes & Events

Everyone Active now run a wealth of activities for many different groups in the community, for example:

- Pool lifeguard courses;
- Targeted programmes for girls;
- Walking cricket;
- Gymnastics;
- Cheerleading;
- Trampolining;
- Football;
- Touch tennis;
- Badminton;
- Tap dancing;
- Modern dancing;
- Ballet;
- Rugby;
- Kurling;
- Under 5's soft play; and
- Active Life sessions for 50+ to name, but a few!

Customer Feedback

Customer feedback has been pleasing, with the emphasis on the delivery by frontline staff. In particular the positive feedback received in December and January about the Receptionists and how well they were dealing with many customers, including during

the busy month of January. Other complimentary feedback included the cleanliness of the facilities, particularly at Wigston, which was commented on many times.

Customer Engagement

Everyone Active has been extremely proactive in engaging the community, with the aim to enable as many people as possible to be aware of both the facilities and services available. The free Everyone Active card helps to record how active individuals are, as well as providing many other benefits. There are now nearly 44,000 people across the Borough and some just outside the Borough boundaries with a free Everyone Active card.

New Staff / Posts

Everyone Active has recently recruited new swim teachers, lifeguards and apprentices, with additional opportunities for lifeguards and Duty Managers to follow.

3.3 2016/17 Sport & Physical Activity Commissioning

The following information provides a brief update on progress and future plans for the final delivery of targeted interventions for 2016/17, utilising external funding:

January – March 2017:

Back to Sport Sessions: There were five different 'Back to Sport' sessions launched on 23 January at Wigston College and South Wigston High School. The aim was to engage with adults who haven't played sport for a while and to provide access to non-competitive, informal opportunities. All but one of the activities were successful and are continuing to run, with the exception of cricket due to lack of interest.

Retirement Project: The 'Men in Sheds' style project is being planned and will start before the end of March. It will consist of various projects e.g. refurbishing benches and making different items for the Country Park such as, picture frames and bird boxes. This pilot project will initially be targeted at existing volunteers, and then rolled out in the future to attract new volunteers.

Dementia Day Service: Leicester City in the Community has been commissioned to deliver a block of 6 physical activity sessions to the service users at 'J and S Day Service' in South Wigston. The participants will have an opportunity to take part in activities such as Table Tennis, Kurling, Boccia, Seated Exercises and Skittles. This opportunity also includes the provision of a small amount of equipment and staff training, so further activities can be delivered in the future, once the project has finished.

ASB Diversionary Project: January 2017 saw the launch of the 'Something to Do' project which is a series of weekly Sport and Physical Activity sessions for young people aged 11-18. Activities included Boxing, Dodgeball, Basketball and Football. The participation numbers have been building week on week, all activities are free of charge and based in Wigston, to address recent identified ASB incidents.

BME Groups: Engagement with this group and various faith groups across the Borough has been extremely positive. Confirmation has been received that the Leicestershire Nutrition and Dietetics Service will deliver a 10 week DHAL course to Members of the Oadby Mosque. This programme is a healthy eating and lifestyle course specifically designed for South Asian residents.

Sport England: The Council's leisure team has recently been part of a county-wide working group in order to submit a large funding bid to Sport England. If successful, it

will result in considerable investment in activities for over 55's across Oadby and Wigston. The programme will also build on the recent success of our Falls Prevention programme.

2017/18 Sport & Physical Activity Commissioning:

The Council's leisure team recently provided a presentation to the county commissioning group in order to bid for £65,386 funding to deliver targeted sport and physical activity programmes during 2017/18. This together with 'partnership cash' of £39,533 provides an overall plan worth £104,919 investment for the Borough. Confirmation of funding will be provided soon.

The following provides a brief outline of proposed activities with the above 2017/18 funding, once approved:

Running, Walking and Cycling: The leisure team aim to expand the current strong weekly Walking and Running offer across the Borough, by including Dementia and Mental Health walks. In addition, to setting up weekly led cycle rides, to build on last year's success.

Nifty at 50: Building on the over 50 programme we aim to buy into an existing brand 'Nifty at 50' and will partner with Melton, Blaby and Harborough Councils (East Leicestershire CCG area) to deliver more sessions across the Borough. This collaboration will also enable us to provide improved ways of working, with the opportunity to book sessions online.

'Just' – Women and Girls: Building on our Female only programme we aim to buy into an existing brand 'Just' and will again partner with Melton, Blaby and Harborough Councils (CCG area) to deliver more sessions across the Borough. This collaboration will also enable us to provide an effective and efficient service.

Community Energy Club: This club gives children who don't engage with traditional sports clubs and school PE a chance to try a wide variety of physical activities in a non-competitive environment. The club has gained considerable success in recent months in South Wigston with over 40 young people attending each week. During 2017/18 we aim to expand this opportunity by setting up another club in a different location in the Borough.

Disability: Partnership working with Leicester City and Leicester Tigers will enabled us to deliver a range of Football and Rugby sessions for adults and children with additional needs. Over the next year, the sessions will be delivered at various locations in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston.

3.4 Oadby and Wigston 2017 Awards Evening – Date for your Diary

Following on from the extremely successful awards evening last November, plans are now underway for this year's event.

This will be the Boroughs 8th annual Awards Evening. It will be held on 22 November 2017 at Parklands Leisure Centre (5:30 p.m. for 6:00 p.m.). This partnership event will be organised and jointly funded by OWBC and Everyone Active, with support from the Local Sports Alliance.

3.5 Brocks Hill Update

Conservation Work Update

The Council's new Park Warden, Jamie Gould, started in post on 15 December 2016. She has already taken active steps to initiate important habitat management tasks at Brocks Hill and the other green spaces. Many of the areas of the park were suffering from neglect, so she has pushed ahead with progress to start restoring these areas, prioritising tasks according to their seasonal requirements.

The Park Warden has assessed areas of improvement for the Brocks Hill management plan, written the majority of the Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan for the woodlands across the Borough and has also written a 22 page guide to habitat management at Brocks Hill for the volunteers.

Working closely with Hollie Standall (Natural Discovery Volunteer Officer) and our Grounds Maintenance team, the aim has been to achieve objectives regarding practical maintenance of Brocks Hill and our other green spaces, in addition to on-going work such as creating risk assessments, purchasing necessary equipment and materials, and carrying out site checks.

The woodland compartments at Brocks Hill were overdue for thinning, an important management technique that improves the health and structure of the trees. After receiving the felling licence arranged by Henry Pearson (Tree Officer), the Park Warden, along with two ground maintenance operatives carried out three weeks of felling operations. Throughout February, two hectares of woodland were thinned at Brocks Hill. Other woodland tasks include coppicing, creation of stakes and binders and wood chipping of brash: with much of this work being carried out by volunteers under the Park Warden's supervision. This is in addition to overseeing tree planting, fruit tree pruning, hedgelaying, scrub cutting and restocking the den building area.

The ponds at the front of the Brocks Hill centre were overgrown with vegetation, compromising their wildlife and aesthetic value. The Park Warden organised the clearance of the ponds by contractors and worked with grounds maintenance and volunteers to remove the debris.

As well as supervising volunteers, the Park Warden also manages a work experience student from Brooksby College, who will be carrying out 50 hours of volunteering with the Council. This is in addition to being a visible presence at Brocks Hill, interacting with visitors, which has resulted in many positive comments regarding habitat management. Moving forwards the aim is to continue with seasonal management of the habitats and other areas of the park during spring and summer.

3.6 Heritage Lottery Project Update

The new Natural Discovery Volunteer Officer, Hollie Standall, also started in post on 15 December 2016. During December through to February she organised a number of taster days and drop-in sessions at various sites across the Borough, in order to recruit new volunteers.

The volunteer taster day on 21 January at Fludes Lane saw 3 new volunteers join the group. The taster day was also attended by BBC Radio Leicester, who was able to promote the volunteer drop-in sessions at Brocks Hill planned for 25 January. This opportunity was subsequently attended by 13 individuals, 7 of whom are now regularly volunteering with the Council. Pochin's Bridge now has 3 regular volunteers and 5 additional volunteers who attend occasionally. Volunteers have been involved in a range of tasks at Brocks Hill, Fludes Lane and Pochin's Bridge, such as scrub clearance, gardening, felling of small trees, litter-picking, path maintenance and coppicing.

Overall the push to recruit more volunteers has been successful with a significant increase of 91.7 percent from 24 to 46 regular volunteers since December 2016. As expected, volunteers' hours have also increased, with January seeing a 10 per cent increase compared to the same time last year and February seeing a 33.8 per cent increase. It should also be noted that there has been a pleasing increase in diversity amongst our volunteers, with an increase in women, younger people and those with disabilities. However, more engagement with our BME community is a priority moving forwards.

As well as increasing the number of volunteers in this short space of time, the Natural Discovery Volunteer Officer has started to focus on updating the current volunteer policy and procedure. A more thorough and informative induction for all new volunteers will also take place, in addition to Volunteer Agreements, to ensure volunteers know what we expect from them and what they can expect from us.

More recently the Natural Discovery Officer attended the Oadby Stakeholders group meeting, to provide information about the range of volunteering opportunity; this is in addition to providing a PowerPoint presentation to the Oadby Residents' Forum on 28 February to promote the benefits of volunteering.

Future plans include:

- from *7 March* onwards, students with disabilities from South Leicestershire College will carry out a gardening project where they learn to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers as well as conservation tasks;
- *13 March* – presentation to the Wigston Residents' Forum;
- *15 March & 22 March* – Sharps training for volunteers;
- *15 March* - presentation board to be set up for the newly formed South Wigston Stakeholders group meeting; and
- *19 March* - Taster day at Pochin's Bridge.

Promotion: Volunteer promotion has been via a number of methods including the Brocks Hill newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, the website and via posters on the Borough's notice boards. In addition to delivering flyers to households in the area of Fludes Lane and Pochin's Bridge to encourage engagement.

Further promotion is via the Easter edition of Letterbox, which has just been distributed. Social media will be used more in the future in order to attract a younger audience.

3.7 Car Parking – Brocks Hill / Parklands Leisure Centre

The need to increase car parking spaces at Brocks Hill / Parklands Leisure Centre was highlighted in the last Committee report; this is due to the popularity of the leisure and the increase of visitors to Brocks Hill Centre and Country Park, particularly during the summer months. This will be progressed together with other issues on the site that have come to light namely substantial repairs needed to the access road into the site, which is this Council's responsibility and the provision of a footpath leading into the site from Wigston Road, Oadby. A further report with proposals will be brought to the next meeting.

Email: avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Tel: (0116) 257 2673

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.
Risk (AL)	CR1: Decreasing Financial Resources. CR8: Organisational Change.
Equalities (AL)	Current EA Commissioning Action plan completed in July 2015. Next assessment due in 2018. Brocks Hill Equality Assessment completed June 2016.
	Equality Assessment:-
	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Screening <input type="checkbox"/> Full Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable