

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of the Strategic Director – Services to Policy Development and Review Panel 2 – 16 October 2008

Sports and Arts update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update and overview of the activities and achievements of the sports and arts officers work programme and to highlight key upcoming activities for the year.

2. Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Council/Committee:
2.1 Note the contents of the report.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The Sports and Arts development officers have reported to the panel progress in the delivery of their targets on previous occasions. The purpose of this report is to highlight key work areas and achievements and to inform members of plans for future activities. The period May – October 2008 has seen some key achievements in terms of a series of successful holiday activity programmes, community engagement activity and partnership working.
- 3.1.2 Sports Development – The 2008 summer multi sports programme was again a great success. Approximately 1000 children took part in a range of sports in a number of rural venues across the district. Feed back from the children has been very positive and as a result the programme will be delivered again in October and February half terms. The programme benefits from a team of dedicated coaches who now deliver on behalf of the council during all holiday periods. This has been key to building relationships with parents, schools and village hall venues. While the programme is time intensive in terms of set up, it is reaping its rewards in terms of satisfaction from residents and participants.
- 3.1.3 In June 2008 the Council was successful in a funding bid to Active Norfolk to enable the delivery of an extended schools pilot project. This project delivered multi sports sessions as an after school club in Banham. Attendance was positive with an average of 16 children at each session. The programme ran for 10 weeks and it is intended that it will be repeated in the New Year.
- 3.1.4 A series of coach and club education workshops and qualifications continues to run district wide delivered in partnership with Active Norfolk. These courses have been essential for a number of clubs to enable them to begin the Club mark process and work towards accreditation. Courses range from child protection to diet and nutrition for athletes to equality in coaching. Attendance and oversubscription to these courses is evidence itself that there is need and demand for the upskilling of our sports workforce. The new club / coach education programme is due to be released later this month.
- 3.1.5 Throughout July and August the Council SDO worked to support the Dereham Otters with the reaccreditation process for swim 21 and in September the regional panel awarded the Otters their Swim 21 certificate. Through the Breckland swim forum, the

SDO will now be working to support the Thetford Dolphins to gain swim 21 accreditation for the first time.

- 3.1.6 Funding support has been provided to a range of clubs throughout this period. A key highlight has been the support given to Garboldisham football club who successfully gained £10,000 grant funding from Awards for All and a further £2,300 from Breckland match funding to bring their pitch up to FA standard and further develop their youth section.
- 3.1.7 From May this year 5 Gifted and Talented grants have been awarded to individuals of regional standard in their sport or above. The scheme is proving extremely popular and a number of further applications are currently being processed.
- 3.1.8 Arts Development – The Councils arts officer left the authority in June 2008 and has been recently replaced by Sam Dawson. Sam brings a wealth of experience and expertise and will update members on her work programme at future panels.
- 3.1.9 This year's summer holiday programme was delivered in partnership with Norfolk Music Works and consisted on a number of workshops across the district for children aged 5-11. The workshops culminated in a performance at Dereham Leisure Centre in September which was designed to bring sport and art together in celebration of the handover of the Olympics from Beijing to London. The event boasted swimming performances by the Dereham Otters as well as musical and singing performances from local children who had taken part in the summer workshops.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The main pressure on the delivery of the sports and arts programme this year has been from the demands of the Breckfest programme. The main event in particular has been time consuming and a learning curve. The lack of an arts development officer during the summer months has meant that the sports development officer has had to take responsibility for the set up, promotion and monitoring of both summer programmes.
- 3.2.2 There are still some issues relating to booking of village hall venues and again this summer a number of halls failed to open up on time or in one instance at all. This resulted in the session being cancelled. It is intended that future sessions will be run in the venues that are more proactive in assisting with the marketing and promotion of the programme as this is more cost effective and the sessions prove to be better attended.
- 3.2.2 The Breckfest programme has inspired a number of clubs and community groups to plan activities for next year and it is intended that these will be promoted via the Breckfest website. Both the arts and sports development officers will provide support to these groups to encourage a diverse range of cultural and sporting activity in the future.
- 3.2.3 Pressure from National Governing bodies of sport to achieve club mark accreditation has resulted in an increase in the number of clubs requiring support to go through the process. This causes issues in terms of capacity and therefore it is intended that a club mark working group will be established to assist on common themes across all sports and enable shared learning and best practice to be disseminated amongst the clubs.
- 3.2.4 The Gifted and Talented programme has been a great success and it is intended that this will be reviewed in the New Year. It has been identified that the forms may need to be amended and that different forms may need to be used for sports and arts applications.

3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 To note the contents of the report.

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 Report for information only

4. Risk and Financial Implications

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 There are no risks attached to the contents of this report

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 None

5. Legal Implications

5.1 None

6. Other Implications

- a) Equalities: The Council is committed to providing fair and equitable services.
- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None
- d) Human Resources: None
- e) Human Rights: None
- f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004] None

7. Alignment to Council Priorities

7.1 Functions and activities relating to sports development arts development and leisure services support the delivery of the following Council Priorities:

- Stronger Communities
- Prosperous Communities

8. Ward/Community Affected

8.1 The cultural services within the district are available to all members of the community.

Background Papers

None

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

This is not a key decision

Appendices attached to this report:

N/A