

REPORT OF LEISURE SERVICE COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 30 May 2000)

1. GRANT AID FUND APPLICATIONS (REPORT C) (MINUTE 9)

The Committee has made a number of grants to local organisations.

In respect of the application from the Hampshire Village Hall Touring Scheme, members sought more information on the direct benefits to the District and the matter was deferred pending a further report in August.

There was a concern that some applications either did not clearly benefit a high enough proportion of District residents, or the organisations did not appear to sufficiently demonstrate an ability to be self financing in the longer term. For those reasons, the applications were declined.

The following grant determinations were made:-

	Name of Organisation	Amount of Grant (£)
A.	New Forest Pre-School Learning Alliance	2,315
B.	Lymington and New Milton Pre-School Learning Alliance	1,716
C.	Ringwood and District Pre-School Learning Alliance	1,696
D.	Duke of Edinburgh Hampshire Forum	400
E.	Hampshire Village Hall Touring Scheme	Deferred
F.	Calshot Village Hall	1,950
G.	Friends of Hampshire Youth Orchestra	500
H.	Waterside Operatic Society	Nil
I.	Southampton Youth Brass Band	Nil
J.	Fawley Concerts	Nil
K.	Avon Valley Concerts	Nil
	Total	£8,577

2. PLAY POLICY AND STRATEGY DOCUMENT 2000/2003 (REPORT D) (MINUTE 10)

The Committee has agreed a strategy document for setting out the Council's policy and priorities for supporting the development of children's play opportunities within the District.

The strategy document emphasises the importance of play in helping the development of children in becoming confident and active citizens. The initiative can help in developing and sustaining healthy living, safe communities, community involvement and quality of life.

The strategy document will be used to involve other providers and partners, so that services can be developed to meet the needs of children and families in the New Forest.

The document will also be beneficial to provide a structure for assessing the service for the Best Value process.

The strategy makes a direct contribution to the Council's key aims outlined in Crossing The Bridge, Looking Ahead At Leisure and the developing cultural strategy of the Council by improving the quality of life for children and families.

A launch is planned for the strategy, involving partners and interested groups. The launch will include exhibitions, working groups and a presentation.

In agreeing the strategy document, the Committee adopted the following Policy Statements:-

1. All children need and have the right to play. Children of all ages should be able to play freely and confidently on their own and with other children.
2. New Forest District Council are committed to working in partnership with other agencies and the community to provide a co-ordinated and strategic approach to the development of children's play.
3. Children should have access to a range of play opportunities such as holiday Playschemes, pre-schools, parent and toddler groups, toy libraries, playbuses, after school clubs, play centres and adventure playgrounds.
4. Play opportunities should be of good quality, relevant and equally accessible to all children and families.
5. Playwork Education and Training is key to the development of quality play and should be flexible, adaptable, reflective of existing good practice.

The document and the policies adopted will help the District Council reinforce existing links and partnerships with the following organisations:-

- ◆ Hampshire Children and Families Forum;
- ◆ The Pre-School Learning Alliance;
- ◆ New Forest Childminding Networks;
- ◆ New Forest Play Network;
- ◆ Forest Bus;
- ◆ Town and Parish Councils;
- ◆ Totton and Brockenhurst Colleges;
- ◆ Hampshire County Council Early Years and Childcare Unit

3. DEVELOPERS' CONTRIBUTIONS : SKATEBOARD PROVISION IN PENNINGTON (REPORT I) (MINUTE 15)

The Committee has agreed the allocation of £17,500 in Developers' Contributions to enable the provision of a skateboard park at Woodside, Lymington, as requested by the Town Council.

The scheme comprises a number of elements included as the result of discussion with young people. This was an approach adopted successfully with other schemes supported by this Committee.

There has also been extensive discussion about siting the facility with local groups and with young people. A number of sites were considered and assessed by the Town Council. After a good deal of deliberation the Town Council chose the Woodside location.

The Town Council have for some while recognised that there is a large number of young people in the town and some provision specifically aimed at them would be a benefit.

This scheme has been identified by the Town Council as the top priority in its mutually agreed list of schemes for implementation in conjunction with this Council. This approach has been taken with the larger towns and parishes so as to ensure, as far as possible, that effort is placed into the schemes that are most desired.

The scheme has been assessed against the criteria required for such projects and it meets those. The town has made good provision for open space but there has been a lack of this type of facility.

The Committee considered the varying views of local District Councillors before taking its decision.

The total cost of the scheme is £35,000 of which the Town Council will contribute £17,500, with the balance coming from developers' contributions.

4. DEVELOPERS' CONTRIBUTIONS : FINAL SCHEME FOR NORTH POULNER OPEN SPACE (REPORT J) (MINUTE 16)

The Committee has agreed to an allocation of £38,600 from Developers' Contributions, towards provision of informal open space at North Poulner, Ringwood.

The Scheme was originally proposed in November 1998, when the Committee agreed an allocation of £20,000. The scheme arose out of a combination of factors that forged a partnership between Ringwood Town Council; Ringwood and District Anglers' Association and this Council.

There has been a great deal of negotiation and progression of the scheme since it was last considered by the Committee. It has resulted in an improved scheme with more partners involved.

In its main elements the scheme is broadly similar to that which the Committee originally approved. It is still an area for informal recreation that makes use of the Town Council land, and land to be conveyed to the Town Council from Ringwood and District Anglers Association. The principal additional features are :

- a) an improved hoggin path running along the eastern margin of the Ringwood Town Council land to give access to the existing bridge and public footpath along the Linbrook;
- b) improved access for disabled people from the car park;

- c) a picnic area accessible for disabled people;
- d) a new bridge to the west of the site, to facilitate controlled access to that end of the site;
- e) improved car parking.

The scheme meets the required criteria and it is felt that this is an improvement on the proposal previously considered. It makes good use of partnership resources and produces a very valuable facility for local people.

**Councillor J A G Hutchins JP
CHAIRMAN**

(ctteemtg/cttee/ls300500)lsreport