

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 8 NOVEMBER 2011  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
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## 1 PURPOSE

To inform members of plans for the coming months within the Leisure and Sports Development Section, and to give a summary of activities organised over the summer.

## 2 LEISURE & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PLANS

### 2.1 Ribblesdale Pool

Over six months into the financial year and the Pool is operating within the original budget estimates. Staff are striving hard to introduce efficiencies and increase income opportunities, where possible.

Despite the absence of a full-time Lifeguard, due to Maternity leave, and the need for additional temporary staffing cover, this overspend is being compensated by an underspend on Pool Attendants.

Income generation is showing reductions in school swimming lessons and adult admissions. Junior admissions have not fallen this year, so far, as might have been expected by the national trend since the removal of free swimming lessons. Attempts to introduce new motivational sessions to encourage increased adult participation include Aqua Zumba and the Big Splash activity programme.

The purchase of Aqua play equipment has been necessary to ensure Junior attendances at fun sessions are maintained, and over £600 raised by the staff through voluntarily attending a Bank Holiday fund raising event has bolstered the Pools equipment budget.

Plans are underway to effect an emptying of the Main Pool this Christmas closure period, and it is proposed to close from Sunday 11 December to 3 January 2012. This will allow some re-tiling work to the Pool floor and sides in response to an increasing number of people incurring cuts and similar injuries. The maintenance will also include relighting of the Main Hall and cleaning of the Pool surrounds to remove the build up of calcium deposits.

### 2.2 Artificial Pitch

The Football area has become potentially dangerous to players due to contamination within the carpet pile at one end of the playing surface. Maintenance work is believed essential to returning the pitch back to safe use, and a contractor is in the process of being determined. The problem has been exacerbated by rainwater failing to drain away from the surrounding grass pitches seeping onto the artificial pitch surface. The silt/mud has collected on this section of pitch nearest Edisford Road, and is a hazard to players, particularly during wet conditions. Funding for the improvement work is being sourced from Engineers Capital programme for 2011/12.

### 2.3 Training Courses

The training necessary to maintain Lifeguards and First Aiders with the respective up-to-date qualifications, is being delivered in-house by a Duty Officer at the Pool, Neil Newsham. A planned schedule for these courses, that primarily is to meet existing staff requirements though will also be available to external candidates, is being produced for the remainder of this year and 2012/13. The training rooms, both in the upstairs of Edisford Pavilion and at the Council Offices, are to be utilised.

### 2.4 Co-ordination of events 2012

A website has been set up across Lancashire which serves to advertise planned events during the Olympic year. The events that Sports Development are staging, by way of encouraging mass participation, are essentially those which have been delivered to some effect over past years, and do not include any organisational cost:

- A 'Big Splash' event in April encouraging distance swims to be completed by individuals/groups over a weekend at their local Pool;
- The Clitheroe Triathlon in conjunction with organisers Epic Events in August;
- The Sport Relief Mile event is a run around the Castle Fields during March;
- An Open Weekend of Sport (20-22 July) comprises of clubs showcasing activities with the aim of captivating interest and then generating future active membership.

### 2.5 Cycling Development

There is now a Lancashire Cycling Action Plan (2012-14), which has been produced to offer leadership and direction to the coordinated development of Cycling in all forms across Lancashire. It is expected that this will present a useful framework for local cycling priorities. These are currently centred around; Mountain Biking at Gisburn Forest and increasing road biking participation through organised led rides.

An application has been submitted to the Sport England Inspire Funding Programme for a grant to assist with the installation of a training loop for Mountain Bikers catering for beginners and new visitors to the venue.

## 3 SPORTING EVENTS OVER SUMMER 2011 AND PLANS 2012

3.1 **Cycling Training** - several cycling training courses were set-up in and around the Ribble Valley but, owing to a lack of interest, only two out of the four weeks took place. The training consisted of eight hours of both on- and off-road training for children aged 8 and above, in order to prepare them for riding their bicycle on the road.

3.2 **Cycle Rides** – four separate lead cycle rides were organised in partnership with Clitheroe Bike Club and Ribble Valley Juniors during July and August. Rides were pre-planned and took various routes through our borough. Two rides began from Longridge Civic Hall, and two started from Clitheroe's Platform Gallery. Take-up for the rides was disappointingly low.

3.3 **Athletics** - run in conjunction with Ribble Valley Athletics Club, a Startrack Athletics course took place at Edisford Road Sports Complex between 16-18 August 2011. Numbers for the course were 19 across each day, and this was the first time we had ever marked out a grass track at Edisford!

- 3.4 **'20 Activities in 12 Days'** – During July, the '20/12' event took place that was an initiative to commemorate 1 year to go until the start of the 2012 London Olympics. Through working with our local community clubs and organisations, a programme was put together to offer 20 different sporting activities over 12 days, which included such sports as skiing at Pendle Ski Club, and Archery at The Bowmen of Pendle & Samlesbury. More than three hundred people attended the different sessions, all free of charge, over the two weeks. One of the main aims of the project was to encourage people to try new sports and to join clubs as a result of this.
- 3.5 **School Sports Partnership** – our official involvement with the Hyndburn & Ribble Valley SSP ended at the end of 2010/2011 academic year, as SSCOs were being scaled back. Tom Bamber no longer performs his 1-day SSCO role on behalf of Bowland High School. A new School Games Manager will take over in September, who will have responsibility to continue the work the partnership achieved over the course of the past six years. Ribble Valley Sports Development will meet with the School Games Manager in due course, to establish how we can support and enhance the continued work within schools in terms of school sport.
- 3.6 **Ribble Valley Talent Day** – this was held on 25 June, and brought both community sport clubs and talented athletes within secondary schools together. Nearly fifty talented athletes attended the day, which was held at Edisford Sports Complex, Clitheroe. Sessions were taken by Clitheroe Rugby Club, Ribble Valley Netball Club and Clitheroe Ladies Hockey Club. Athletes were then signposted to these clubs to increase participation here.
- 3.7 **Sportivate** - Sport England's 'Sportivate' scheme Year 2 plans were recently announced by Lancashire Sport. There will be nearly £5000 to spend on sport and leisure provision for 14-25 year olds in the Ribble Valley. Sports Development is currently consulting with local clubs, providers and schools, via the SPAA, as the best way to spend this money in order to raise participation in this age group.

Year 1 - Projects that ran, or are running, include Youth Gym at the Freedom Fitness Room Longridge, 'No Strings' Badminton at Roefield, Youth Basketball at Roefield, and a Youth Football scheme run in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership and local clubs.

Year 2 begins in April 2012 and ends in March 2013. Year 2 plans are to be submitted to Lancashire Sport by 14 December.

- 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE  
Notes the contents of the report.

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