

# MINUTES OF LEISURE AND TOURISM PANEL

14<sup>th</sup> February 2006

**PRESENT: -**

**Members of the Panel:** Councillor Mrs Edwards (Chairman)  
“ Coles (Vice-Chairman)  
“ Backholler  
” Butlin  
” Elson  
” Leigh Hunt  
” Lane  
” Mrs Peach  
” Ravenhall  
” Mrs Upstone  
” Mrs Watson  
” Whistance

**Officers:** Roland Honeybunn, Head of Leisure Services  
Wendy Parry, Museum & Galleries Manager  
Mike Lenihan, Economic Development Manager  
Jan Dunseith, Tourism Manager  
Deborah Tyrell, Solicitor Legal Services Unit  
Debbie Dawson, Scrutiny Officer  
Jonathan Skinner, Assistant Scrutiny Officer  
Mark Hurst, Group Accountant  
Stephen Marks, Sustainability Co-ordinator  
Steve Garrison, Principal Committee Officer

**Also present:** Mike Hiron, Chairman of Rugby Tourism  
Tim Hewitt, DC Leisure  
Chris Barr, S&P Architects

## **35. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2005 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **36. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received from Councillor Shields.

## **37. PLANNING FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE KEN MARRIOTT LEISURE CENTRE**

The Panel considered a report concerning planning for the redevelopment of the Ken Marriott Leisure Centre (Part 1 - Agenda item 4).

The Panel received a presentation from Tim Hewitt of DC Leisure Management and Chris Barr of S&P Architects.

A copy of the presentation was circulated to all members of the Panel.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of this item

- \* Future Facility Options at the Ken Marriott Leisure Centre
- \* Refurbishment and New Build Options
- \* Funding Options and Financial Considerations
- \* Priorities for Leisure Provision
- \* New Build Facilities and options to consider
- \* Possible Refurbishment Requirements

The Panel also considered a case study of Elmbridge Leisure Centre.

Members of the Panel asked questions in relation to :-

- \* Competition with the Private Sector
- \* Services to the public
- \* Cost savings and revenue increases
- \* Efficiency, staffing and maintenance
- \* Energy consumption, costs and solar power options
- \* Sustainability
- \* Loss of income during a demolish and new build

The Panel also discussed the recent tour to Leisure Centres at Lutterworth, Nuneaton and Loughborough during which the following points were raised.

- \* The siting and visibility of a new Leisure Centre in Rugby
- \* Options for the current site if the Centre is moved
- \* The importance of retaining the green space on the site
- \* The position regarding possible lottery funding
- \* The need to safeguard the athletics track

It was then proposed and seconded and the Panel

**RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET THAT**

(1) Approval be given in principle to a New Build Scheme incorporating the following facilities :-

25 metre, 8 lane pool  
Teaching pool  
2 Courts Sports Hall  
Fitness Suite  
Health Suite  
Climbing Wall/Extreme Sports  
Creche  
Children's soft play area  
Dance/Aerobic Studios  
Meeting Room  
Cafeteria

(2) officers investigate the provision of squash courts with other providers;

(3) the preferred options for the new development be the "wrap around" and "front site" schemes as detailed in the presentation (both of these options allow the existing building to be retained during the development); and

(4) further feasibility studies be undertaken to explore these options.

**38. TOURISM WITHIN THE BOROUGH**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Technical Services (Part 1 - Agenda item 5) concerning Tourism within the Borough.

Mike Lenihan presented an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the Tourism Action Plan 2005-2007 together with an update of the opportunities offered by the Rugby World Cup.

Mike Hiron, Chairman of Rugby Tourism outlined his organisation's involvement with the Borough Council on matters relating to Tourism and emphasised that lack of resources continued to be the major issue, with investment needed to enable better marketing of the Town.

The following points were raised during discussion :-

- \* Concern at having to "share" exhibition stands with Coventry City Council due to lack of resources
- \* The possibility of the creation of a "Tourism Company"
- \* Concern over the cleanliness of the Town, particularly first impressions from arrival by rail. It was suggested that the BID may help improve the cleanliness of the Town centre, but it would be important to work closely with Railtrack to ensure the refurbishment of the railway station has the best results possible.

- \* The weakness of relying only on the game of Rugby in promoting the Town
- \* More promotion of the Art Gallery & Museum
- \* The role of Warwickshire County Council in supporting tourism in Rugby
- \* The value of Promoting the Town on advertisements at the station and at local airports

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Panel to review the record of this discussion and make recommendations to Cabinet at the next Panel meeting.

### **39. LEISURE & ARTS BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Technical Services (Part 1 - agenda item 6) concerning the Leisure & Arts Best Value Improvement Plan.

An initial report on the Leisure Trust and externalisation procurement option had been considered by Cabinet on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Cabinet had decided that officers should undertake a preliminary assessment of procurement options taking into account the management and staffing implications and financial benefits and dis-benefits.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the current situation be noted.

### **40. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2005/06 – 2<sup>ND</sup> REPORT**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Corporate Services (Part 1 - agenda item 7) concerning Revenue Budget Monitoring 2005/06.

The issue of the provision of an International Geneological Index facility being made available to the public at the Museum was raised and officers undertook to investigate the request and report back to the Panel.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be noted

### **41. CAPITAL MONITORING 2005/06**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Technical Services (Part 1 - agenda item 8) concerning Capital Monitoring 2005/06

**RESOLVED THAT** –

- (1) The progress of schemes in the Capital Programme for 2005/06 and anticipated variances be noted; and

(2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

£990,000 capital budget reduction for the Caldecott Park  
Refurbishment in 2005/06 to be moved to 2006/07 be approved.

**42. WORK PROGRAMME 2005/06**

The Panel considered the report of the Chief Executive (Part 1 –  
agenda item 9) concerning the Panel's remaining Work Programme  
for 2005/06

**RESOLVED THAT** – the position with regard to the Panel's remaining  
Work Programme for 2005/06 be noted.

**CHAIRMAN**