

Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership

Sports and Leisure Working Group meeting Minutes

Friday 12th April 2002, 10am at the House Project, 168 South Coast Road,
Peacehaven

Present: Joanne Kidd - Meridian Leisure Centre, Pete Billin- Resident, Victoria Field – Resident, Stephen Keogh –Peacehaven Town Council Leisure and Amenities Officer and Donald Shier – minutes (House Project Partnership Support Worker).

Agenda:

1. **Apologies:** John Livings - County Councillor, Wendy Bannatyne – Voluntary Sector.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** were read and agreed as accurate.
3. **Matters Arising from the Last Minutes: Cairo Avenue Integrated Playground plan -** The land for the proposed playground has very nearly been transferred to the Town Council. They will let us know how this progresses. **Five a side football tournament.** SK told us this is coming along. He is still discussing a suitable date with the football club's grounds-man. July is possible, after the pitch has been re-seeded. SK would prefer to run the competition in school term time because this would help with publicity. The tournament is for teams under 11 and under 13. **Charity Match with Martin Chivers 11.** No date set for this yet but Steve plans for August. Still on track. Commercial sponsorship is sought. **Peacehaven Jubilee Celebrations in June.** Peacehaven Town Council has arranged a day of activities and entertainments in and around the Meridian Centre. A full programme will be available soon.
4. **New Members of the Group:** The meeting welcomed Joanne Kidd. Lewes District Council's Community Leisure department employs her. She is the Manager of the Meridian Leisure Centre in Peacehaven. The group discussed the Leisure Centre. There have been concerns about access to the facilities for adults in the community since the school uses the centre a lot in the daytime. Joanne told us that it had been decided, when negotiations took place about building the new school, that they would get use of the Leisure Centre's main hall in the daytime. After 3 years, from when it opened, the school will have full use of the sports hall every day. Joanne does not believe that this will exclude anyone from using the centre. The centre's gym and exercise programmes use other parts of the building. She believes it is a good thing for young people to start using the leisure centre when they are young. This is found to make them more likely to continue this in adult life.

Current use by school is 13 hours per week. This will increase to 25 hours from Sept 2002, and they will have exclusive use of sports hall from 2003. Joanne will keep the public informed. Most of the community use is the centre's organised activities for under 5s and their mums. These can still go on in other rooms when the school is using the main hall.

Joanne is discussing with the school about the possibility of the District Council's Community Leisure services taking on the management of the school's sports facilities. **Leisure Centre Car park.** 30 spaces are reserved for teachers and 45 for the public. Many people misuse the car park, for example, people shopping in the Meridian Centre. Joanne is trying to manage the car park as well as she can to ensure that the public can use the centre.

5. Football ground improvements: Steve Keogh is discussing the bid with Victoria Field. He is now pursuing two separate bids to the Football Foundation. One is for improvements to the Peacehaven Football Club ground and clubhouse. He needs the club to provide details for this. He is making progress with help from V.F. She is acting as a kind of commercial manager for the club. She is working with someone who is raising money for the club through sponsorship and advertising. She told the meeting that it is expected that new people will be elected onto the club committee at its annual general meeting. She believes that this will help improve relations with the Town Council. The club's debts to the council have been paid up. There are still some issues to be resolved between the town council and the club, regarding maintenance of the pitch, dug outs and nets. SK and VF will work on these.

Steve's second bid to the football foundation is for grass roots development of football in Peacehaven. This will include money for resurfacing the town's tennis courts for use as an all weather sports pitch, fencing this in and putting up floodlights.

The current tennis courts are hardly ever used and are subsidised by the Town Council. There are constant problems of vandalism. There are tennis courts at the new school. He feels that these could be used by the public when not needed by the school. He has been approached by someone for advice about setting up a commercial tennis club in Peacehaven. This would use the existing courts and involve building additional indoor courts. Steve has asked for a business plan to look at before he considers this further.

This bid would also be for employing a part time football development officer for the town. SK is writing to all local football clubs to find out what facilities they have access to and what they would like to see in future.

6. Swimming Pool: Crowborough trip cancelled. Donald will ask John Livings about organising a further trip.

There is no further news on the possibility of the County Council putting in a Private Finance Initiative bid to expand the new school. John Livings is trying to get them to include a swimming pool in a PFI bid.

The annual running costs of the Ringmer Community College pool are £30,000 (all staff are volunteers). Admission charges cover this so well that they can now afford to employ a part time manager.

JK believes that Seaford Head school pool will close soon. Lewes District Council manages this. They might be interested in managing a pool in Peacehaven instead. She suggests that anyone interested should contact Peter Crowliegh who is in charge of Community Leisure Services to find out more about the possibility of the District Council helping to run a pool for this area, if we can get money to build one. Community Leisure Services might become separate from the council in the future.

7 Other possible projects. None at present.

8. AOB None

9. Date of Next Meeting: Friday 10th May 2002: 10.30am at the Peacehaven Leisure Centre.