

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 4 – Leisure
Thursday 28th November 2019, Committee Room 1, Perceval House
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors: Woodroffe (Chair) Ball, Burke, Driscoll (substitute for Rooney) Mann, Nagpal, Taylor, and Shaw.

Ealing Officers Present:

Harjeet Bains – Scrutiny Officer
Chris Bunting – Assistant Director, Leisure
Julia Robertson - Sports Development Manager
Krishna Chapriban – Democratic Services Officer

External:

London Tigers:

Mr Mesba Ahmed – Founder & Chief Executive

Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust:

Mr Lee Doyle – Chief Executive Officer
Mr Chris Barratt – Education Manager
Mr Pete Shears – Head of Intervention
Mr Luke Skelhorn – Operations Director

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received by Councillor Rooney (substituted by Councillor Driscoll).

Apologies were received by Councillor Alex Stafford (substituted by Councillor Woodroffe).

2. Urgent Matters

None.

3. Matters to be considered in Private

None

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3 October 2019 were agreed, subject to page 7 paragraph 2. Cllr Hitesh Tailor remarked that Gunnersbury Park..... with Cllr Paul Driscoll remarked that Gunnersbury Park.....

6. Scrutiny Review of Sports in the Borough

Chris Bunting (Assistant Director, Leisure) and Julia Robertson (Sports Development Manager)

Chris Bunting, Assistant Director of Leisure, and Julia Robertson, Sports Development Manager, gave an introduction to the subject to the Panel. Members noted that the

number of sedentary people in the Borough was a primary concern for Ealing Council. Due to inactivity, this group had a much higher risk of health problems. The Active Ealing team had made available a range of indoor and outdoor facilities for young people, older adults and people with disabilities to help them become, and stay, more active. The Active Ealing team worked in partnership with two leisure contractors trading as Better & Sport and Everyone Active. This ensured a joined-up approach to community sports development, as well as health related project development. The Active Ealing team attended a regular sports development meeting to keep updated with the structure of the leisure centers and sports facilities within the borough. Generally, across the Borough, major increases in physical activity had been reported.

Mr Mesba Ahmed, the founder & Chief Executive of London Tigers, explained to the Panel the work of the organisation.

London Tigers was formed in 2011. London Tigers was a charitable organisation that focused on reaching out to disadvantaged groups who for a number of reasons did not participate in local community events. London Tigers had purposely worked in areas of known deprivation and with hard to reach people and had set up large and small health related projects. London Tigers had established Development Centres for Football and Cricket with junior and senior teams playing at competitive level, a Youth Club and women's Fitness Programmes. More recently London Tigers Sports complex in Spikes Bridge Park had achieved a prestigious Green Flag for outstanding London Sports Venue.

Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust (BFCCST)

Lee Doyle, Chief Executive Officer, Chris Barratt, Education Manager, Pete Shears, Head of Intervention, and Luke Skelhorn,

Operations Director; of Brentford Football Community Sports Trust (BFCCST) were present to inform the Committee of the work of BFCCST within the community.

BFCCST worked in partnership with Brentford Football Club. The Trust offered a portfolio of programmes in education, employability, sports participation, health and community engagement that had spanned over three decades. The lure of sport was used to educate, motivate, heal and inspire people from all backgrounds.

The 'Football League Community Club of the Year' award had been achieved four times by Brentford Football Club. Recently, BFCCST had joined the European Football for Development Network and aligned its strategy with the United Nation's sustainable development goals.

Chris Bunting provided feedback on data collected for membership at Better & Sport and Everyone Active who reported swimming as most popular amongst their members for its greater overall physical benefit. Dependent on funding, more swimming pools would be made available for public use. To meet the demand, discussions were ongoing between the Leisure Department and schools in the Borough with their own pools on how these pools could be made available for public use. The collection of statistical data was a mutual interest of the two contractors and the Ealing Active team. The data connected to each member within the membership system could be used for further meaningful analysis.

Public facilities with access for disabilities is a natural design feature nowadays, Leisure centers have a life of 25 to 30 years.

London Tigers Sports Complex in Spikes Bridge Park has grass facilities for football and cricket, an indoor hall that doubles as a dance studio, a well-equipped kitchen and a pavilion with changing rooms and a dedicated car parking. London Tigers personally provided assurance any damage caused because of their events in Parks would be addressed by them. Work had recently started in the Borough in promoting London Tigers and floodlights installed encouraged children to play outside longer.

London Tigers encouraged children to sign up by making them aware of the benefits with school holiday camps. This has been done via community projects and youth centers.

7. Panel Operations

Harjeet Bains, Scrutiny Review Officer, updated the Committee on the operations of the panel since the last meeting.

On Tuesday 12 November Councillors Burke and Nagpal attended the Let's Go Southall summit at the Dominion Centre, 112 The Green, Southall, UB2 4BQ. The members that had attended site visits fed back the following to the Committee:

The Let's Go Southall summit was a gathering to bring out a range of people across the community in Southall to explore opportunities for boosting physical activity in the area. The aim of the summit was to improve health by reaching out to the residents who were the 'stay at home' people. The summit brought out residents who were already active but nevertheless keeping active people motivated. Southall was a vibrant and energetic place and the Summit embraced get up and dance.

Improving health and wellbeing in our neighborhood's was of vital importance to the residents and physical activity was a top priority.

The following site visits were planned:

- On Friday 17 January 2020 at 16:00-18:00 Councillor S Woodroffe was due to attend Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust at the Horizons Education and Achievement Centre, Hanwell.
- On Saturday 11 January 2020 (time tbc), Councillor S Woodroffe was due to attend the London Tigers Sports Complex in Spikes Bridge Park, Southall.
- On Saturday 11 January 2020 at 12:00-16:00 Councillor S Woodroffe will attend PACE Charitable Trust. Havelock Community Centre, Southall. This was rescheduled from the original date of 14 December.

The Panel noted that the main item for consideration at the next meeting on 26 February 2020 would be the Arts Provision in the Borough. Invites were due to be sent out to representatives of the Arts Council, Ealing BEAT and The Culture Diary to give evidence on this topic.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was due to take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 26 February 2020

Councillor Alex Stafford

The meeting ended at 9.30pm