

## Chairman's Report to WHSPAA Executive Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January

### Introduction

We currently have a vacancy for secretary following Amy Stevens going on maternity leave: all offers and suggestions are welcome. Stuart Trower has stepped down from representing Finesse Leisure and we thank him for his active support since WHSPAA's inception. We welcome his replacement, Amanda Fitches, Manager for Health and Fitness at Finesse Leisure.

Following the Government's Spending Review I again start this report with a review of the National, County and Local scenes and their impacts for us.

### *National Scene*

Before we look at the implications of the Government's Spending Review it is worth looking at the bigger picture that WHSPAA is part of. The Active People Surveys consistently show that approximately only 20% of people in Welwyn Hatfield do enough physical activity to avoid circulatory disease, heart attacks, stroke, type II diabetes and some cancers. The just published 'NHS Health Profile of East of England 2010' gives a lower figure of about 12% (for the East of England) and a declining trend, but whatever the figure is it means that approximately 80% of the people in Welwyn Hatfield are suffering the misery of ill-health that could be avoided by doing exercise of 30 minutes 3 times a week. What's more Government figures put the cost of this lack of sufficient exercise at £1M per 100,000 people – about the size of WH - on the NHS, businesses, schools, benefits, etc. Clearly, WHSPAA members – for example, our clubs provide 10,000 places per week - are helping to make our health and economy better than it would otherwise be.

The main threads of the Spending Review, as expected, are reduced funding from central Government and Local Authorities. The initial scrapping of School Sports Partnerships has been given something of a temporary reprieve until July. See below for the local implications. While the roll-out of 46 national governing bodies' Whole Sport Plans funded by £480M until 2013 is still in place, there are some reductions and the shaky position of SSPs that deliver many of our countywide 21 governing bodies' tournaments leaves a lot in limbo. The Government's increased emphasis on competition. pilots of schools' Olympics, Paralympics in 3 SSPs in Herts started as 'pre-pilots' in October with full pilots due to start now (January).

### *County Scene*

Our County Sports Partnership has had funding cuts (and we will receive a report from them). The reorganisation of the NHS putting Public Health themes (like obesity, lack of exercise) into the control of a countywide organisation under Herts County Council is still to be clarified. Whether this will encourage more physical activity remains to be seen.

**Herts Physical Activity Alliance:** was started in 2009, to increase healthy physical activity with the target of 4% more adults doing 5 x 30 min. per week by 2012. However, the strategy (currently 'Framework') document still awaits the full implications of the Government's Strategic Review before finalisation. The framework has been sent to alliance members and will be circulated widely early January. Next meeting in Spring 2011.

The Regional Physical Activity Alliance, has its next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January. Details can be found on their website: [www.erpho.org.uk/topics/pa/pa.aspx](http://www.erpho.org.uk/topics/pa/pa.aspx).

### *Local Scene*

The impacts of national spending review changes are filtering down. The big cuts that affect us include the previously announced scrapping of Building Schools For the Future. Stevenage's BSF plans will progress but somewhat abated, as they were a year ahead of us. Our schools, as our MP acknowledged last May: 'I fully recognise that much of the infrastructure in many of the schools in my area requires urgent updating.' Also, the recent

'NHS Health Profile of East of England 2010' indicates that children's physical activity in WH is significantly worse than the England average.

The size of current reductions in spending on sport and physical activity by our Council is unknown, but there have been reports in the Welwyn Hatfield Times of staff redundancies at the Swim Centre run by Finesse Leisure. Leader of the Council, John Dean, has also recently reported that the size of funding from Government is considerably smaller than expected.

### **Facilities**

The Borough Council's facilities planning strategy, has in the light of the cancellation of our Building Schools for the Future programme and the continually emerging spending changes been delayed (see Y&SPM's report).

### **WH School Sports Partnership**

The initial announcement of the demolition of School Sports Partnerships led to the setting up of our 'SSP Campaign Group' to reinstate SSPs, comprising: Sue Lewis, Headteacher SFO and Hub school; Steve Savva, PDM; Darren Bennett, WH BC Sports Champion; Matt Rayner, Y&SPM; Shelly Harris, Leader Rep. (based at Monks Walk school) and me.

Following our lobbying and several email discussions with our MP Grant Shapps he wrote: 'Your very effective lobbying and my chat with the PM will have played a small part in the signalled change in direction.' The Campaign Group is due to meet Grant Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January to press for retention of SSPs or similar structures in academic year 2011 onwards.

### **WHSPAA representation on our Borough Council's management organisations:**

**Welwyn Hatfield Alliance** (our Borough Council's Local Strategic Partnership) it is reviewing its format and representation.

**Cultural Consortium** which draws its Action Plan from the borough's representative organisations.: WHSPAA reports our achievements (or otherwise) into the Consortium's monitoring process. Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November, affirmed 3 Targets two relate to WHSPAA:

1 *Work with the Borough Council and Sport England to ensure the development and completion of a sports facility strategy for the Welwyn Hatfield area;*

2, *Support the work of the Welwyn Hatfield School Sports Partnership to increase accessibility to all local sports facilities, including the development of concessionary rates for schools to hire facilities during off peak times.* The council is ... now trying to work closely with the SSP and the facilities to ensure that as a borough we can support the schools in the best possible way for the future.

Also, 'Cllr Darren Bennett is happy to attend the SSP meeting with Grant Shapps.'

## **Report**

Since our last meeting I have supported:

### **Peartree Community Day – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Included promotion of local sport and physical activity organisations and come and try sessions for juniors, adults and people with disabilities, by Philip Gray - who used the improved launcher for people with disabilities funded by WHSPAA Club Development grant.

**Website:** Many updates. Promoted club registration with a monthly draw and photo of winners receiving cheques. Some 60+ clubs have amended their details or added them for the first time. From December we also have a Facebook presence with approximately 90 its per week.

**WH Sports Awards:** Nominations CLOSE 21 January

**Newsletter due to the printers, w.b. 10<sup>th</sup> January:** 1200 copies in full colour.

**Club Forum** on 'School Sport and Volunteers' 6:30pm, for 7pm, 24th January at Campus West