

## Chairman's Report WHSPAA AGM 12 May 2016

### Introduction

As I leave the role as chairman I would like to whole-heartedly thank the very many people who have made the 10+ years so enjoyable and, I hope you agree, productive. Without your and your colleagues' commitment to sport and physical activity the regular week in week out opportunities for the thousands of people in our borough would not have happened. As an organisation we have helped move some significant facilities development projects forward to varying degrees; for example, we have supported bids to Sport England for new and enhanced sports facilities at several schools and sports centres - and then we have facilitated their usage. With your help we have spread the word of our and our partners' activities through our newsletters, website, FaceBook, and on our stand at the many events. We have provided small amounts of funding to help clubs grow and occasionally obtained grants for our own significant projects.

But it is the networking between us, our clubs, schools, the University and our sports facilities that have enabled each of us to maximise our own potential.

Significantly, we have been able to represent a strong and unified voice for sport with our partners, the Borough Council, Herts Sports Partnership and more recently with Health interests.

For all of this I thank you.

In the coming years we will see big changes resulting from the Government's new sports strategy 'Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation' and Sport England's as yet unclarified response. It has far reaching implications with more focus going to increasing participation and healthy living and probably less support from National Governing Bodies of sports. However, the Borough Council and Herts Sport Partnership believe there will be a continuing need for WHSPAA and similar Community Sports Networks.

The four headings of my annual report below are those of our WHSPAA Development Plan which reflect Sport England's and the Borough's strategy and agreed at our meeting last year.

### 1 Increase School, FE, HE and Community Links

Our two Sport England Projects have completed and they have made a substantial impact:

- 'Developing Local Sport' enabled us to reach out and involve 6 communities
- 'Living Leading Giving' helped some 90 school leaders and many Uni students gain qualifications and increase participation.

The new 'Simply Amazing Welwyn Hatfield' £250,000 project was formally launched 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. at Child UK Offices and promises opportunities for many of our members' involvement over the next 3 years.

Our work with SportInspired's Hatfield Primary Schools Community Games project provided an enjoyable tournament of 5 sports and healthy living sessions for 220 children from 5 Hatfield Primary Schools (4 from Onslow St Audrey hub plus Birchwood Avenue) on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Herts Sports Village. The children rated the day 9.47 out of 10. A very special thanks to Ocado, The Galleria, the University, and Herts Sports Partnership. The project also provides 6 after-school sessions in the sport of each school's choice.

One of the Olympic themed events, 'The Road to Rio' sports day at Gosling Sports Park for 220 children from 14 WH primary schools 15<sup>th</sup> July, is engaging clubs and coaches for the 20 sports.

## **2 Community and Voluntary Sector**

New Facilities: Onslow St Audrey school's plans are again progressing: there are no updates on Bishops Hatfield Girls school new sports hall.

### **Activate**

- Held Disability Tennis in December, looking to repeat this year (RH)
- Disabled Cricket won £10,000 from NHS Price & Innovation Award for work with people with Mental Health issues (RH)
- WGC Cricket Club want to extend and develop the Pavilion to make it more accessible for people with disabilities (RH)
- Helping to organise para- badminton tournament 23 July 2016 (DB)

WHSPAA members promoted sport and physical activity at a busy and enjoyable "Herts Health For All", WGC Library in February.

Coming events that WHSPAA and interested clubs are providing activities at:

21<sup>st</sup> May WGC Healthfest: Child UK and many other sport and physical activity organisations are represented.

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June This Girl Can in Herts Week:

11<sup>th</sup> June Hatfield Community Sports Day at Birchwood Leisure Centre

11<sup>th</sup> June Hatfield WGC Fire station Community Day

2<sup>nd</sup> July Welwyn Festival Sports Day

9<sup>th</sup> July: Peartree Healthy Living Day, Woodhall Centre

15<sup>th</sup> July: 'Road to Rio' sports day for 220 children from 14 WH primary schools at Gosling Sports Park.

23<sup>rd</sup> July The Herts Badminton Association's National Parabadminton Tournament at Herts Sports Village.

3<sup>rd</sup> September Cuffley Village Day

24<sup>th</sup> September Hatfield Healthfest

If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

If you have any events they can be advertised on the 'Year of Sport 2016' calendar link at the top of the WHSPAA webpage, and on WHSPAA Facebook.

A WHSPAA grant (£100) has been provided to Hatfield Netball Club to enable them to have funding support from HSP and Funding4sport.

## **3 Public Health**

As well support for the Hatfield and Welwyn Garden Healthfests (section 2 above), progress meetings with Peartree and the parishes of Welwyn, and Northaw and Cuffley for their sports days are ongoing.

Simply Amazing Welwyn Hatfield' with the element of healthy living was launched to a large audience in February. We continue to work with partners on this 3-year physical activity programme for 16-25 year-olds'.

#### **4 WHSPAA Management Structure and Resources**

Our 2015 -16 WHSPAA Development plan has been successful apart from the inability to source additional funds for helping clubs directly and the occasional need to pay a coach for assistance at events.

At our EGM in September we re-aligned our structure to comprise a small management group and extend the club forum to encompass all sports organisations into one 'Alliance' to enhance networking.

The website is being redesigned to enable more information to be displayed attractively. It is expected to be ready for the AGM: in order to remove 'dead wood' we will in due course ask all clubs to reply to an email of continued interest and support or their entry will be deleted.

The Welwyn Hatfield Times produced a large article on WHSPAA and the need for a new chairman. The role has been registered with our Council for Voluntary Service and the chairman has spoken with several potential candidates. I hope to have good news at our AGM & WOMEN AND GIRLS SUMMIT Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May.