

WELWYN HATFIELD SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ALLIANCE

Executive Committee Meeting held on 12th October 2011

at 7.00 pm in Room R110, University of Hertfordshire

Present:	Dave Bartlett	Chairman	DB
	Anita Alfieri	Gosling Sports Park	AA
	Gill Bartlett	Gosling Sports Park	GB
	Toby Garrett	Hatfield QE2 Rugby Football Club	TG
	Shelly Harris	Schools Leaders' Representative	SH
	John Manitarra	Child UK	JM
	Lynne Pestle	Treasurer & University of Hertfordshire	LP
	Matt Rayner	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	MR
	Amanda Riches	Finesse Leisure	AR
	Peter Simmons	Hertfordshire Sports Partnership	PS
	Rosemary Basden	Minutes Secretary	RB
	Jon Mather	North Mymms Cricket Club	JM
Also:	Philip Ashman	Welwyn Rangers Football Club	
	Karen Blease and colleague	Welwyn Garden City Ladies Football Club	

Action

1. **Welcome/Apologies**

Dave welcomed all those present.

Apologies:

Michelle Bavington	WH Sports Games Organiser	
Cllr Darren Bennett	WHBC Sport Champion	DBe
Carmen Dillon	Welwyn Hatfield CVS	CD
Laura Johnson	Hertfordshire Sports Village	LJ
Sarah Mitcherson	Director, Sports College	SM
Claire Smith	Contacts Secretary	CS

2. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011 were accepted as a true record, the Actions having been completed. The minutes of the AGM on 23rd May 2011 were also accepted as an accurate record, both Actions having been carried out.

3. **Executive Reports**

3.1. **Chairman's Report**

Dave ran quickly through his report.

County Scene – The Olympic-style School Games Pilot was very successful. The new School Games Partnerships' role is still being clarified. Regional Physical Activity Alliance: there is some optimism that physical activity will feature more prominently in the NHS reforms.

Local Scene – It is hoped to run about 16 sports tournaments between now and next June, but it is going to be a hard and testing time following reductions in working hours. Peter said there was a rumour that all the schools in Potters Bar have formed themselves into a group. Some have got out, will run their own activities and will not count as a separate partnership.

Updates – We hope to find out the main concerns of clubs: more members,

more funding, more volunteers, working with schools were the top 4 concerns. We would like to find out how many club members there are. There are 10,000 opportunities a week for adults and children to participate in sport. Freshers Sports Fair – A great success, with lots of WHSPAA brochures and newsletters given out.

WH Olympians-Paralympians – We are trying to identify how many there are in the Borough: 32 are known, of which 90% are from the past. There will be a banner-stand for schools.

Community Sports Brochure 2011 – More advertisers are being sought (and the website is more up to date) and there will be 5,000 to hand out.

We continue to promote WHSPAA at Village Events.

Dave has tried to find Coaches for School Sessions but numbers are a bit low.

3.2. **Youth & Sport Partnerships Manager's Report**

Matt thinks we need to find out what the school games competitions are, with a targeted approach. John asked how much time would be involved and Dave replied we are looking into that.

Matt said the Council and Child UK ran the first National Play Day at Stanborough Park, which will take place next year as well, with a maximum age of 10. Welwyn Hatfield came 4th in the Herts Youth Games by half a point.

Next year's are to be on 10th June and sports to be included will soon be confirmed. 10th March is the first Community Fun Day: the idea is for any club in the Borough to have a stand and there will be music and sports things.

The week commencing 7th November we hope find out whether the Olympic torch will come through Welwyn Hatfield next June, which would be a big event.

Angerland Common – the University has received a letter and the Council is meeting rugby, football and cricket representatives to discuss exact facilities requirements.

Matt said the Council are going through an organisational restructuring; he has a new boss, a new director, and hopes to be all right until the Olympics. There is to be a reduction in heads of service from 15 to 7, so testing times ahead.

3.3. **Finances**

Lynne said not too much has come in. WHSPAA now has well over £8,000 and Activate just over £15,000. Dave's comment: we need to spend it!

3.4. **Clubs Working Group Report**

Toby said Hatfield Rugby Club have done good work with students. The Clubs Forum on 23rd May was successful and the next is on 2nd November. Dave tabled draft 2 of the Clubs Survey, which is to find out what clubs want and what do we do to support them. He went briefly through some of the questions, but if members have any further questions they think should be included, they should let him know by Friday. Help will be needed to put the results on a spreadsheet and Lynne offered to help, as did Shelly.

The survey is to be returned by 25th November.

The newsletter has details of the next Clubs Forum, which is in this room, R110, on 2nd November. Dave said Laura had had 4 replies last week.

Requests for club development funding –

- Philip Ashman, Welwyn Rangers FC, gave a short summary of the club. It is hard to keep 2 teams going: there are currently 40 members, and £250 would greatly help with club development.
Award of grant unanimously agreed.
- Jon Mather said North Mymms Cricket Club, a village club in Welham Green, has a small youth section. They successfully promoted cricket in local schools this year and last; there are 64 primary schools near Welham Green, all of whom they hope to approach. They had 200 children a week over 10 weeks, with another tournament next year. They are now also promoting winter cricket.

DB/LP/SH

Grant approved by the Committee.

- Karen Blease of Welwyn Garden City Ladies Youth FC is applying for funding for a coaching course and to promote ladies football in Welwyn Garden City; the ladies' section has doubled since September, with others interested and they want to build up the youth side. She is aiming to become competent to coaching level 3 and encourage players to become coaches too. Subscriptions are kept low, so funding is a big issue.

All in favour: grant agreed by the meeting.

3.5. **School Games Partnership (renamed)**

In Sarah Mitcherson's absence the only report we have is in the newsletter. There are to be 16 different sports, though funding is minimal; Peter mentioned there is limited money to extend the Change for Life clubs for primary schools. Shelly said the balance between co-ordinating and teaching is getting difficult, but leadership is at a good level. She added that they are also getting sixth-formers involved, and are hoping to have an under 19s table-tennis team. They have not got the funding for a large variety of sports and do have to provide what is in the School Games competitions. Their Youth Council enjoyed the Play Day, the sport was good, and they would like another next year. Shelly did a survey last year and results were very positive; she would like to do another this year to see what the effect of the cuts is, whereupon Dave remarked that you do not know what is missing until you look back - but schools will notice it first. Matt suggested this survey should go out at Easter rather than December and this was accepted.

4. **Other**

Matt went briefly through the WHSPAA Targets 2011-12. Coaching Support will start in January. Local Events: the University Freshers' Fair was very good. Clubs' Forum: the more engagement with clubs the better, eg funding.

All the leisure trusts in the county are co-ordinating to set up Inspiring Athletes and the Herts Association of Leisure Trusts has been working with the University: different people offer different things. Matt will speak to Wendy and then Gill.

Olympics and Paralympics: a week-long event is being organised and it would be good for clubs to do different things. It should be some sort of celebration.

Sports Awards 2012: an interesting speaker has already been booked.

Newsletters are going out and the website is getting lots of hits.

Matt is working on the Borough Sports Facility Strategy.

The proposed incinerator has taken up planners' time, however the Strategy will be completed. There is soon to be a meeting with all the Partners' members as a sports strategy group.

MR

5. **Partners' Reports**

- *(taken early)* **Child UK:** John Manitarra gave a brief summer summary, also featured in the newsletter. Play Rangers went very well, with lots of outdoor activities for children plus arts and crafts, etc, and is expanding. Average attendance in rural sites was 20, with great feedback from children and parents – despite the rain! Last year it averaged 55, this year 60+, and there was a really good atmosphere.
- **Herts Sports Partnership's report** is in the newsletter. Peter said the Active Students programme started last week and numbers are looking excellent; the focus is here at the University, next the Veterinary College then further education colleges. They are aiming for higher levels of student participation, as 94% of students do no sporting activity - it is

informal and social. There will be opportunities for the Borough's clubs, some of which are making the most of it eg Welwyn Rugby Club. Hatfield Netball Club are running sessions, as are Welwyn Lacrosse Club, and there is an opportunity for hockey to be played on the MUGA at College Lane. However, they do need involvement from an archery club. There were 60 at roller-skating, but it is very much a question of getting it established, building additional activities into the programme and rolling it out.

Peter described the new project Sport Makers, to be launched in Herts tomorrow, which is about recruiting more volunteers, individuals who encourage family, friends, etc, to play a game of some sort, not necessarily in a club setting, and such people would be termed Sport Makers. There is an event tomorrow night with the focus on active students; anyone interested has to register online and book on to a convention or workshop in order to become a Sport Maker, and there will be freebies for turning up. The main programme starts in November: quite a number of workshops will be hosted by community sports networks such as WHSPAA. Matt asked if it would be worth putting these into the survey as we must make sure we are covering the right questions. Peter said they have found the venue, with minimal refreshments. A facilitator goes along, with a film and presentation, then there are exercises and a matching of potential Sport Makers to potential Sport Maker roles. Individual sports will have a dedicated Sport Maker workshop. Peter said the Herts Coaching Conference (13th November) is now an event in its own right, on a whole range of issues.

Sportivate until March is now wrapped up for 14-25-year-olds. Matt said the Council are working with other big organisations, e.g. Child UK, and at the moment figures are excellent @ 125% of target for football, plus they are now getting 19- and 20-year-olds.

Peter said Herts Youth Games are on 8th July, which would potentially fit in with the Olympic torch, and a number of sports are interested.

- **Gosling Sports Park** – Gill reminded all of its independence and charitable status and provided an interesting history of the Park, which started 50 years ago on the site of an old gravel works. The Council do not provide any funds and the Park does have to survive. A number of developments and facilities such as an indoor hall had been funded by grants or loans. There is no ready source of cash, only what they can to produce themselves, and they do try to provide community activities; some sports are less commercially viable than others. Gill has had the experience of being on the Board and also a user representative.

There is however a potential threat, to be outlined by Anita.

Anita had recently had a meeting with clubs and users because of the proposed Tesco development. They are not against the development but are against the proposed swimming pool, plus the gym which would finance the pool. They had a large loan (£5.4M) for new building and the Fitness Suite: 52% of their contribution is from the Fitness Suite.

They do subsidise the user clubs, but if they lost that contribution because of a new gym then they lost all of the surplus made last year and would have to put up fees to users and clubs. Anita said the evening with the clubs and interested parties produced no Councillors though all had been invited. Gill said talks are going on between the Chairman of the Board and the Council. Matt would like the impact on the various users quantified if the proposed gym was to go ahead, say 4 or 5 and the potential impact on them. Dave asked, if 10% of income was lost, would fees go up by 10%? Gill replied it would be more,

which would possibly impact on clubs' memberships and the club participation rate might be reduced. Dave expressed WHSPAA's concern about anything that would affect Gosling's viability if fees went up by more than 10%, but it was difficult to predict now. Gill pointed out that people do like to use a new gym, and it also affects society's more vulnerable people. Anita said the Park employs 235 people, many of them young, and they too would be affected. Peter said Sport England always look at implications for other facilities and it would be worth talking to Ed. Matt said that, while the Study did identify the need for a swimming pool in Welwyn Garden City, it is a difficult one. Gill pointed out the extreme proximity of the proposed new pool to the Hatfield one.

PS

- **Finesse Leisure's report** Amanda described their various events and ran through the activities at the Swim Centre: there was free swimming throughout the summer holidays. Funding is to be available for roller-skate hire at Hatfield Leisure Centre before the roller hockey starts. The Activate Forum received funding. They have had meetings with disability users to find out what sort of bikes they need. Matt said there is a 3 or 5 year £50,000 project to get people to do proper cycling. Peter had a meeting about a county-wide scheme which may go ahead to get more people on bikes, Ride Local, with Herts Highways wanting to bolt on Welwyn Hatfield. In response to a question from Gill, Peter said there is no money to make cycling safer. It is about training ride leaders, not infrastructure, so as to get people on bikes with a leader.
- **University of Hertfordshire and HSV Report:** Lynne drew attention to an item in the newsletter - one of their students, the Women's University Football Captain, is to represent Great Britain at the 2011 World University Games in China.

6. **Any Other Business**

Matt mentioned that the Sports Awards are on 9th February – will be a good night! Nominations open in November.

Dave had had an invitation from Welwyn Hatfield Alliance to an event on the changing world of the voluntary sector, 20th October.

7. **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 7th December at Hazel Grove Community Centre, Panshanger @ 6pm.

DB

Dave thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.