

MULTI USE GAMES AREA REVIEW GROUP

28th September, 2009

PRESENT – Councillors Hughes and Francis.

APOLOGIES – Councillor Burton.

OFFICERS – Mike Crawshaw, Head of Cultural Services; Neil Drew, Leisure and Arts Facilities Manager; Christine Jones, School Years Partnership Manager; and Allison Carling, Democratic Support Officer.

Points Discussed

- Councillor Hughes highlighted the messages she was receiving from the community was still with access difficulties. Mike advised the Group that following a meeting with the Children's Services Joint Consultative Group he had been given the go ahead to liaise with the schools to negotiate access to the school sites and this has been undertaken during the summer term with mixed success.
- St. Aidans – some community use of the indoor areas and struggling with the play areas outside.
- Eastbourne Sports Complex – existing pitch if open for use.
- Hummersknot – Phase approach to community use – casual access also and the Spraire Lads and All Starts club use the facilities regularly.
- Branksome – difficult to formalise a community use agreement at this school. There are also some lighting issues.
- Alderman Leach – casual use and sports development activities. Firming up a Community Use Agreement.
- Cockerton – not progressed.
- North Lodge Park/North Park – access for casual recreational use of the site.
- Lighting issues. Exploring Access Grant Funding for North Lodge Park.
- Whinfield – existing activities for sports development and good access
- Education Village – full facilities open operated by Kajima at market rate costings. Good well maintained facilities but a bit pricey.

- Dodmire School – Grass pitches used by Junior teams and clubs but limited access on the MUGA.
- Firthmoor Community Centre – Service Level Agreement in place, managed by the Community Centre and free access to the school to use. Financing requested for an all weather pitch.
- Coleridge Centre – Outreach programme delivered but still needs to be opened up for casual use. Empty most of the time.
- South Park – fully open
- Polam Hall – not open on school site, access problems.
- Carmel – good community access. Bid for a synthetic pitch. Example of good practice and used heavily by various clubs. Can be pricey.
- Christine refers to the delivering extended schools guidance and the Core Offer, which includes community access where a school has facilities suitable for use by the wider community. It was reported that 85% of schools are currently offering ‘core offer’.
- Discussions around charging policies and a consistent approach to charging for community use and public liability issues with individual sites.
- Members of the group agreed that since the Review commenced there has been a lot of good progress made which needs to continue.