



Local Committee for Woking 19 January 2005

Member questions on general matters

The following questions were received from Cllr Diana Smith

1. What progress has been made in discussions between Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council, proposed at this committee on the 14th October, on the possible transfer of the 'Garibaldi land' to Woking Borough Council?
2. How many possible time slots for youth activities at evenings and weekends are there at each of Surrey's Youth facilities in Woking? What proportion are currently used for activities for young people?

Mike Howes, Local Director for Woking, responded:

Discussions between Officers of the two authorities have begun and arrangements are in hand to prepare an agreed management and maintenance specification for the site to help identify the ongoing costs associated with the site. This process will, however, now need to be suspended pending clarification of the claim that reference has been found in the Countryside Agency CROW 2000 s15 exempt land list that the Garibaldi lands and the rest of Bisley Common are subject not only to s193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 but also to a Scheme of Regulation under the Commons Act 1899. This indicates that the purpose of the acquisition of the land is for public recreation.

Officers need first to examine the exempt land list and, if indeed the Garibaldi land is included, to ascertain the implications for the management and maintenance of the site. Clarification may take some weeks.

David Blake, Woking Youth Development Officer, responded

In answering this question, it is extremely important to make the point that where, traditionally and historically, youth work was in the main isolated within youth centres, it now takes place in a variety of settings, and at a variety of times. Consequently, the totality of youth work in Woking exceeds the aggregate of slots at Surrey Youth Centres in the Borough.

The first priority is the need(s) of the young people we are working with. It is then decided which method of youth work we will employ to address these identified needs. Many young people do not live near a youth centre, or do not wish to go to a youth centre, so youth workers engage with them on the streets. Furthermore, many schools often develop partnership projects with the Youth Development Service which involve youth workers engaging with young people on the school's grounds. We may also use buildings that don't belong to the Youth Development Service to meet and work with young people, e.g. The Maybury Centre, Sheerwater Community Centre and Woking Borough Council Civic Offices.

Additionally, again, historically and traditionally, youth work has taken place in evenings during the week. However, now we have targeted schools work being delivered in a morning, babysitting courses and young parents groups being delivered during afternoons, and drop-in sessions and project work taking place on Sundays. Again, all of this in response to the needs of young people, and delivered alongside, and in addition to, regular evening sessions.

Woking Youth Centre - This is a part-time youth centre with a part-time leader- in-charge. The Youth Development Service have 3 sessions running in the building, 1 of which is a targeted session for Asian young women. These sessions take place:

Tuesdays: 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Wednesdays: 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Thursdays: 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Most of SCC's youth centres across the county are available for community groups to hire when the building is not being used for youth work. As each youth centre needs to be, in the main, self-financing, any money obtained from hire groups is used to subsidise the core youth work. Furthermore, no hire group's use of the building should result in the inability for core youth work to take place.

Woking Youth Theatre regularly use Woking Youth Centre for their rehearsals on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Sunday evenings from 6.00pm - 9.30pm

Lakers Youth Centre - This centre is currently closed due to lack of staff. However, it is being used by the Active Learning Programme during the day on Tuesdays, Young Carers every second Tuesday from 5.30pm - 7.00pm,

Sheerwater Girls football project on Wednesday afternoons between 3.30pm and 5.00pm, Link Leisure on a Wednesday evening from 5.00pm until 7.00pm, Woking High School on Thursday mornings from 9.00am - 12.30pm and Outcrowd on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. However, once a new full-time youth workers is appointed it is envisaged that the core youth work at Lakers will develop dramatically.

There is also a Tumble Tots play group who use the building on Wednesday mornings from 9.00am - 12.30pm, and Fridays from 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Sheerwater Youth Centre - This centre is currently being redecorated by the newly formed Sheerwater Youth Committee, under the guidance of Lyn Nunnerley, the full-time Neighbourhood Youth Worker for East Woking. Youth sessions take place:

Mondays: 7.00pm - 10.00pm

Thursdays: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Saturdays: 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Sundays: Either 10.00am - 3.00pm OR 3.00pm - 10.00pm

There is a play group that use the centre during term times, Monday to Friday 8.45am - 12.45pm, Allegro Dance Academy use the centre on Tuesday evenings from 4.30pm - 6.30pm, Friday evenings from 6.30pm - 8.30pm and Saturday mornings from 9.00am - 12.00pm, and Link Leisure use the centre on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Woking Youth Arts Centre - This centre is currently being refurbished. A VIP opening will be scheduled for early February and there are many plans for Service specific youth work and partnership projects to be delivered at the centre once it opens.

Many of the youth centres are used by the youth work team on an ad hoc basis for meetings, sessions and projects with young people when and where appropriate.

There are currently two full-time youth workers in Woking with a dedicated face-to-face brief. They work 74 hours a week between them, 42 of which are face-to-face sessions with young people, in and out of our buildings.