

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure

16 July 2019

Easingwold Sports Facilities

Brilliant news for Easingwold as we've had confirmed that funding and planning permissions are now in place to deliver a new sports hall and full-sized 3g pitch on the secondary school site. This will be a £2.5m investment, including £650k from HDC Section 106 funds. The Council and Outwood Grange Academy have worked closely with other funders and stakeholders to get to this stage. Details on timings will be announced shortly.

GovRadio

GovRadio was installed into the 4 leisure centres recently. Broadcast within the leisure centres, the station is played in the communal areas of the facilities and is supported by local and national business advertisements. It is also used to promote the leisure services in a professional and informative way, as well as being available to promote other HDC services.

Toning Suite Open Morning

Dozens of new and regular customers attended the Northallerton Leisure Centre Toning Suite open morning. New users particularly enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere with many commenting how easy the equipment was to use. Existing users remarked upon the improvements to their mobility, the gentle exercise levels and the social benefits of the service. Further open mornings will be held.

Disney inspired swim sessions

Disney inspired Toy Story 4 family swim sessions were introduced at Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre in June. The weekly 45 minute sessions include 10 fun and exciting activities based on core aquatic skills to motivate children to keep healthy and learn a key life skill. Sessions are delivered by a trained Activator, featuring content inspired by Disney story-telling and are targeted at children aged 3-11 years.

Leisure Centre Quest Success

Both Stokesley and Bedale leisure centres have been rated 'excellent' by the national quality scheme– Quest, following recent assessments. Quest is the leisure industry equivalent of Ofsted and includes a rigorous 2 day inspection. Staff and customers are consulted during the assessment process and mystery visits are carried out to measure the consistency of service standards. Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre is due next, with Northallerton Leisure Centre's turn in 2020.

Sowerby Sports Village – Phases 1 and 2

Phase 1 and 2 works, part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, to prepare the site and install grass pitches have been completed. The project has now entered into a 12 month maintenance phase for the extensive planting works. Officers are currently considering an operations plan for the site and discussions are continuing with potential funders for phase 3 to develop facilities for formal sport. Visit the council's website for a short video of the extensive site.

Celebrating Inclusive Sport

Two very successful events have been held recently as part a project that has been part-funded by Tesco's Bags for Help. 31 people attended a 4 hour Bikeability event at Northallerton Leisure Centre on 31 May and 52 people attended the Primetime Celebration Event at the Galtres Centre on 14 June. Feedback from both sessions has been really positive.

Leisure Managers First to Respond

Workers from a hospice in Sowerby recently requested urgent use of Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centres defibrillator to provide emergency treatment to a male resident. Fiona Wilson (Centre Manager) and Tom Stuart (Assistant Manager) took immediate action and ran across the Flatts to the home on Sowerby Road with the defibrillator. After providing CPR for 20 minutes, the paramedics arrived, but sadly the man was pronounced dead at the scene. Fiona and Tom were commended by the hospice and paramedics for their professionalism and efforts to provide emergency treatment to the man.

Councillor Mrs Bridget Fortune
Portfolio Holder for Leisure