

Minutes of: PARTNER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 2nd March 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Kenyon (Chair)
Councillors Knowles, Fletcher, Kempson, McMahon and Shipley

IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services
Martin Kay, General Manager, Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT)
Christine Ashcroft, Community Leisure Association Whitworth (CLAW)
Lisa McDowell, CLAW
Philip Smith, Managing Director, ROSSO
Matthew Parkes, Finance Director, ROSSO
Brendan O'Reilly, Commercial Marketing Manager, ROSSO
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

2 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Knowles declared an interest as a Director of Rossendale Transport.

4. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow members of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed Members that the Scrutiny Officer had circulated information following the last meeting, which North West Ambulance Service had agreed to supply to the committee in relation to clinical quality indicator results for each ambulance station within the Borough, together with the whole of East Lancashire

indicators for comparison purposes. A task and finish group would shortly begin its work to monitor and review the ambulance services local response times.

7. Community Leisure Association Whitworth (CLAW)

The Riverside Event Manager informed members that the 2014/2015 financial year had not been the best as there had been a good few cancellations, and low attendance meant poor bar takings. However, the profits for 2015/2016 were likely to increase owing to the number of weddings and wedding packages. The Event Manager highlighted the following:

- In-house special offers to fill Thursdays and Fridays.
- 6 provisional wedding bookings and a few confirmed bookings which will result in increased income in 2015/2016.
- Chair covers have been purchased as an investment, rather than having to hire them in.

The Secretary and Trustee of CLAW informed members that there was a new chairman of CLAW, Mr Peter Barnes. She presented the quarterly report and highlighted the following information:

- There was continued growth at the pool with lessons income.
- Schools were on board with lessons.
- Facebook was having a positive effect.
- They had replaced the electric heater with a new gas boiler to heat the domestic water e.g. showers etc.
- This had proved beneficial as it was cheaper to run.
- The biomass heater for the pool was no longer an option as there was no gain over the long term period.
- The solar panels could not be sited on the flat roof and they were now proposing the tower and pitched roof.
- They were still considering the location of solar panels at the Riverside.
- There was much community involvement including the Skyline Walk which raised money for the Mayor's Charity, Tourism and Leisure Committee and Whitworth Sports Council.
- CLAW was involved in the organisation of this event and entry forms would be available soon.
- There was free use of the pool for the children's Splash and Dash, which supported the Sports Council.
- Free swim tokens were provided for the Sports Festival, there was good take up and it encouraged people to visit the pool.
- A Viable Campaign was taking place to raise money for new Christmas lights.
- The lights switch on attracted large numbers to the Riverside.
- All proceeds from the New Year's Day Duck Race this year went to the Viable Campaign and had raised £700.
- They needed to invest in more ducks as they ran out this year.
- There was a Dance-a-thon for Comic Relief on Sunday 8th March and the BBC had been in touch to say it was the only one in the North West. It was 6 hours of non-stop dancing with different dance demonstrations taking place.

- The pool was hosting a Swim the Channel for Charity event.

A number of questions were raised by members to which the Secretary and Trustee of CLAW responded.

The Managing Director of ROSSO informed that they could look at doing some joint work with CLAW around events.

8. ROSSENDALE LEISURE TRUST (RLT)

Martin Kay, General Manager of the Leisure Trust gave an overview of the performance and highlighted the following.

- Importance of social return on investment.
- Marl Pits was busy with gym memberships, swimming, Rossendale Harriers and various sports clubs.
- Continued work with the various swimming clubs to bring them closer together as water time was at capacity.
- Working in partnership with the Amateur Swimming Association.
- Impact in East Lancashire from budget gyms.
- Success with young people but challenges with membership mix as it affects the yield.
- New activities at Marl Pits.
- Challenges for football provision as plastic pitches grow.
- Joint work with football clubs e.g. Blackburn Rovers.
- Marl Pits sports pavilion refurbished.
- Partnership work on site and planned signage upgrades.
- Triathlon sold out for 2014.
- Haslingden gym refurbished last year with functional training area.
- 72 gym stations downstairs and 33 upstairs.
- Vertical playground meeting would bring people into the valley, looking to install back end of May/June.
- Would speak to bus company regarding marketing.
- Need to ensure there are well trained staff and online booking facilities are available.
- Annual football tournament attracts over 100 teams over 2 weekends.
- Sports Awards will celebrate Up and Active campaign to get inactive people into activities and widening participation.
- Activities would include running, dance and walking and impact would be measured over 12 months.
- Lifestyles Team have health co-ordinators and over 600 people accessed GP referral, cardiac, rehabilitation and weight management programme.
- They also offer in-school coaching.
- There was a need to get a good balance of commercialism and keep investing in new things.
- The Leisure Trust were always looking for new ideas such as the laser tag and roller skating which were back and doing well.

A number of questions were raised by members to which the General Manager responded.

Resolved:

That the committee note the work undertaken by Rossendale Leisure Trust.

9. 2014/15 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The 2014/15 Scrutiny Work Programme Update report highlighted the work undertaken since June 2014 to date.

Resolved:

That the 2014/15 Scrutiny Work Programme Update be noted.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

11. ROSSO (ROSSENDALE TRANSPORT LIMITED)

Philip Smith, the new Managing Director of ROSSO (Rossendale Transport) presented an update on the future plans for the bus company.

Members raised questions to which the Directors of Rossendale Transport present responded.

Resolved:

That the Committee note the information presented by the Managing Director of Rossendale Transport.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.00pm.

Signed
(Chair)

Date