

## **Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Sports & Recreation Group**

### **Notes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Podmore Building, St Andrew's Field, Paddock Wood**

#### **Present:**

Carol Williams, Town Councillor, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Andy Clements, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Stuart Dedman, Rugby Club

John Hall, Chair, Paddock Wood Football Club

Mike Illsley, PE Teacher & Head of Behaviour, Attendance & Progress, Mascalls Academy

#### 1. Apologies:

Stewart Wild, Sports & Community Development Officer, Fusion

Derek Boyle, Paddock Wood Town Council, Chair of Estates Committee

Andrew Stanley, Insulators Football Club

#### 2. New members introduced themselves and outlined their interests in relation to sports and recreation:

a. Stuart Dedman, East Peckham and Paddock Wood Rugby Club, who currently play on Putlands Field, using changing facilities at Putlands Sports Centre. The club pays Putlands for use of the changing facilities in the sports centre, but the facilities are limited. The club have spoken to the Hop Farm about having club facilities there.

b. Andy Clements, not representing a sports club, but concerned that recreational spaces in areas of the town are being taken up for housing

#### 3. Election of chair & secretary not discussed

#### 4. Terms of reference reiterated and minutes of previous meeting reviewed including the audit of outdoor sports facilities being led by Paul Shipley at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Suggestions made need to take account of the TWBC Sports Strategy.

#### 5. CW provided a brief overview of the neighbourhood planning process and the purpose of the group, which is outlined in the terms of reference. This included timescales for this work, which will be used at the Neighbourhood Planning events on 2/3<sup>rd</sup> February and 1/2<sup>nd</sup> March in the Day centre, Paddock Wood. She explained that invites to groups within the Town were going out for the event in February and the March event was open to all residents of Paddock Wood.

#### 6. What should sports facilities look like in the future?

a) The Elm Tree Football Club currently has waiting list for youth team, but there are insufficient facilities at present and the Athletics Club has closed its membership for new members.

People from Paddock Wood currently go outside Paddock Wood for the following sports:

Swimming – Larkfield & Tonbridge are the most popular

Football – facilities are better elsewhere

Rugby – there is a need for a second team, but facilities prevent this

Cricket – Horsemonden

Tennis – Horsemonden/Brenchley

Squash

Gymnastics – East Peckham, Tunbridge Wells & Uckfield

Water polo – Tunbridge Wells

Diving – Tunbridge Wells

Scuba diving Maidstone

Netball – Maidstone (6 courts are very busy)

Gym – 5 Oak Green

b) What sports facilities could be developed given existing facilities?

- Athletics as the track and field areas are rarely used – Mascalls makes use of the field facilities on sports days, but otherwise a long way to come for 1 lesson
- Dance/fitness studios at Mascalls which clubs could hire
- The sports hall at Mascalls has facilities for indoor cricket & could be used for football, badminton & athletics
- Mascalls are developing gym facilities for young people in the old gallery
- Putlands could be developed to provide a wider range of facilities, especially at evenings & weekends e.g youth facilities

The group would like to see a cycling club with facilities.

c) The group would like to see one venue for outdoor sports with a Club House and sufficient pitches for football, rugby and other outdoor sports. Facilities that are set up like this are Longmead in Tonbridge and King's Hill Football Club. If there was one sports club, it could provide the following sports in addition to football and rugby:

- Hockey
- Baseball/rounders
- Netball/basketball
- Golf (simulators)
- Walking football
- Children's tag rugby
- Martial arts

The club house could have sufficient space for badminton and table tennis (currently at Putlands), squash, snooker/pool, climbing wall and fitness studios.

There was discussion regarding the cricket team, who currently use Memorial Field and the Pavilion – it was felt that they might want to stay put.

The venue for athletics was discussed, but based on the recent spend on the athletics track and proximity to Putlands, it is unlikely to move.

7. What should recreation facilities look like in the future? To be deferred to 19<sup>th</sup> January

8. Any other business:

The need for a large social space was identified for use by a range of bodies e.g. Mascalls are having their Prom at the Hop Farm, if there was a large venue at reasonable cost in Paddock Wood, they could use that.

9. Dates of future meetings: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 7 – 8.30 pm Putlands Leisure Centre