

Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Sports & Recreation Group

Notes of meeting held on 19th January 2017, Putlands Leisure Centre,, Paddock Wood

Present:

Carol Williams, Town Councillor, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Stuart Dedman, Rugby Club

John Hall, Chair, Paddock Wood Football Club

Stewart Wild, Sports & Community Development Officer, Fusion

Andrew Stanley, Insulators Football Club

1. Apologies:

Andy Clements, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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

2. Carol Williams will continue to chair & take notes due to time commitments of others.

3. CW welcomed Andrew Stanley to the group. Andrew represents Insulators Football Club, which has two teams, with players from 16 years old.

4. CW reminded everyone of the Neighbourhood Planning events on 2/3rd February and 1/2nd March in the Day centre, Paddock Wood. She asked if all groups had received invites to the February event. John Hall had, but had to pay £2 to get it from the post office as it had no stamp. The rugby club had not received an invite & Carol will forward one to Stuart Dedman.

5. What should sports facilities look like in the future?

The group reviewed the discussions from the previous meeting and discussed possible locations for an outdoor sports hub:

- Land at the end of Nursery Road, which has previously used for sport. It was discussed that this area would not be big enough for all sports and would have poor access as Nursery Road is residential
- Field behind Baxalls would have sufficient space if available, although it is in a flood area. Advantages would be that it has access roads from Maidstone Road and from the bypass near Whetstead. There would be minimal light pollution and noise to residential areas and there is access via footpath (which is not true of the Elm Tree pitches).
- Putlands field has no room to expand, but could be used to develop youth sports including extending the skate park & use of athletics track by schools. The field has one pitch, the bowls club, skate park, athletics track and is regularly used by dog walkers. A swimming pool could be added to the back of the sports centre.

Other suggestions included using Putlands as a community centre & relocating all sports to the hub above, although this would be less accessible for the schools, and selling the land for development & locating sports together elsewhere.

- Tennis courts – these could be refurbished or relocated to establish a local club.

6. What should recreation facilities look like in the future?

The following issues were discussed:

- All sports fields in the town should be retained as green space and perhaps a park developed with seating for people to relax outside
- Play space – concerns were expressed about the security and use of St Andrew's play area
- U3A is thriving and offers a wide range of recreational activities
- It would be good to have an indoor soft play area – possibly at Putlands
- There are a wide range of activities run by/at both St Andrew's and the Catholic Churches, including an art class, music and dance for pre-school children and groups for the elderly
- There are a range of groups for older people provided from the Day Centre, with a range of groups/ clubs running in the evening
- Need to look at facilities for disabled people – Carol Cooper is helping Fusion set up sessions for children with disabilities & there is Football for people with disabilities on Sunday morning
- Need a pub with a good family restaurant. There was discussion about the Hop Pocket site and John Brunt, but the best site was considered to be opposite the station where the derelict house is
- The group would like facilities for theatre productions
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Small cinema or cinema club could be developed in the community centre
- Outdoor cinema – the Hop Farm is proving very popular
- A trampoline facility for the public – there is a club at Putlands, but young people would like casual access, like Gravity/Jump In
- The group would like a live music venue

It is important to consider recreational activities across the lifespan.

7. The group had a tour of Putlands facilities

8. Dates of future meetings: to be agreed after the Neighbourhood Plan event in February