

Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Sports & Recreation Group

Notes of meeting held on 28th November 2016, Podmore Building, St Andrew's Field, Paddock Wood

Present:

Carol Williams, Town Councillor, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Stewart Wild, Sports & Community Development Officer, Fusion

John Hall, Chair, Paddock Wood Football Club

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

1. Apologies:

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

Sean Marsh, Fusion

Stuart Dedman, Rugby Club

Andy Clements, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Paul Shipley/Nick Green, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

2. The group members introduced themselves and outlined their responsibilities in relation to sports and recreation:

a. Stewart Wild works across Fusion Leisure Centres within the Borough, working with the community and leisure centre to develop the services provided, for example working with the Weald Leisure Centre in Cranbrook and High Weald Academy to look at the future use of the leisure centre.

b. John Hall chairs Paddock Wood Football Club which has 275 members between 5 years old and adulthood. This includes pan disability and girls' teams.

c. Mike Isley is a PE teacher at Mascalls Academy, teaching a wide range of sports and working with young people whose behaviour and attendance require work.

3. A number of additional sports groups were identified and CW agreed to invite these groups to identify a representative to join the group:

a. James Blackall, Paddock Wood Primary School

b. Will Lovett, Schools Partnership

c. Sarah Pring, Netball team

4. Election of chair deferred to next meeting

5. Election of secretary deferred to next meeting

6. CW provided a brief overview of the neighbourhood planning process and the purpose of the group, which is outlined in the terms of reference (see attached). This included timescales for this work, which needs to be in draft by the end of January/early February.

CW emphasised the need to think about sports and recreation facilities for the future to meet the needs of the three proposed developments and more that are likely to come after that. Need to be creative.

There was discussion about the number of football/rugby pitches in Paddock Wood:

- There is 1 rugby pitch and 3 football pitches, including 1 3G pitch at Mascalls. This is not currently used by the PWFC adult team, but is used by the girls and disabled team. The 3G pitch is booked Monday to Friday between 5 & 10 pm. There are problems with overhead wires above the 3G pitch.
- The pitches at the Elm Tree ground were discussed – there is need for expansion of the number of pitches here to meet demand for pitches within the club. The land at the end of Nursery Road, which was previously used as a sports field, was identified as an additional/alternative site for football and other outdoor sports.

The tennis courts were discussed, as the ones on Memorial Field are in bad condition and are likely to be costly to refurbish to an acceptable standard. Mascalls have floodlit tennis courts. The use of these by the public was discussed and it appears that the problem is public liability insurance, which prevents these being hired out to the public, although hire to a Club is a possibility.

7. CW updated the group after a brief discussion with Paul Shipley at TWBC and referred to the TWBC Sports Strategy for 2016 - 21. CW outlined the current work being undertaken by TWBC to review outdoor pitches and to plans sports facilities across the whole borough. A visit is planned to Putlands on 2nd December. There is likely to be funding for women's sports.

8. Dates of future meetings:

- a. 5th January, 2017, 7 – 8.30pm
- b. 19th January 2017, 7 – 8.30 pm (venues to be advised)