

Area North Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## 9. Sport, Arts & Leisure Service Update

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### Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on the work of the Sport, Arts and Leisure Service in Area North.

### Recommendation(s)

That the Area North Committee notes the report and identifies areas it wishes to see incorporated within the 2009-10 service planning process.

### Background

The aim of the Sport, Arts and Leisure Service is to **consistently** improve the quality of life and well being for all through the development and provision of high quality cultural, sporting and leisure opportunities.

The service makes a positive difference to resident's lives through **enabling, partnering and delivering** sustainable opportunities for all people to enjoy. At a high level the service covers seven main areas:

- Play Development
- Play Areas / Youth Facilities
- Opportunities for Young People
- The Arts
- Active Lifestyles Development
- Sport Development
- Leisure Facility Development / Management

The primary range of services, together with an overview of the main achievements during through to Quarter 2 (September) in 08/09 and project proposals for 09/10 for Area North are set out on a service by service basis below.

The service delivers four of the top six council services or facilities used by residents: Octagon Theatre (86 per cent), Cultural Work (85 per cent), Parks (Play Areas) and Open Spaces (82 per cent), and Goldenstones Leisure Centre and the Community Offices (81 per cent).

Service delivery is driven by the annual service planning process. This in turn is driven by the commitments set out within the Corporate Plan, the Local Area Agreement and five Strategic South Somerset Framework Documents: Play Strategy, Young People Strategy, Sport and Active Leisure Strategy, Facility Strategy and the emerging Arts Strategy.

## Report

### Play Development

Play Development is delivered through two important services:

1. **Community Resource Centre Service:** which comprises a unique series of affordable services to assist new and existing voluntary community organisations and individuals across South Somerset to deliver a range of community activities. As of 30<sup>th</sup> August 08, **101 community organisations** and **344 individual users** were registered from Area North. The service enables a vast array of play activities to be delivered which enhance the quality of life and health and well-being of residents which those organisations would otherwise be unable to provide due to the prohibitive financial costs of doing so.

It achieves this through delivering the following services:

- **Community Resource Activity Bus:** A flagship high-tech double-decker bus specially converted to provide a wide variety of mobile projects to children and adults within their communities across the district.

*Through supporting Playschemes and the Area North Forums, the bus has reached 13 Area North communities, 528 children and 194 adults. Communities including Somerton, Martock, Curry Rivel, Aller, Ham Hill, Fivehead, Barrington, Kingsbury Episcopi, Montacute, South Petherton, Langport, Ilton and Chilthorne Domer. Further visits are planned for October half-term, December Santa Bus, and February half-term.*

- **Community Art Shop:** A store providing art and craft materials at affordable prices to members of the service.
- **Community Equipment Hire:** A wide range of equipment for loan and hire including fundraising, arty packs, community playscheme, production, sports, play, and crèches.
- **Community Scrapstore:** This collects 40 tonnes of reusable waste each year from the commercial sector which would have gone to landfill, sorts it, and then checks it and then makes it available to groups and individuals for use in arts and crafts projects.
- **Community Training:** A range of training workshops ranging from playscheme activity planning to arts and crafts ideas, delivered both in the community and from the centre.
- **Community Playscheme Support:** A range of support to assist community organisations to run community playschemes ranging from programme planning advice, legislation guidance, to finding artists and crafts people to deliver fresh ideas and financial support.

*To date, the service has supported seven communities (Martock, Ilton, Curry Rivel, Long Load, Somerton, Aller and Kingsbury Episcopi) with artists and play support through our Hullabaloo Programme at subsidised costs.*

- **Community Mini-Bus Hire:** A mini-bus with wheel chair access and capacity to carry a maximum of 16 passengers anywhere in mainland Britain at affordable community prices.
- 2. Play Development Partnership:** Following the completion of South Somerset Play Policy and Strategy in 2007 and our successful £274,000 bid to the Big Lottery Fund, the service has developed a multi-agency Play Development Partnership to drive forward the development of play opportunities across the district. A full time Community Play Officer was appointed in February 2008 and this has enabled the service to support the Play Partnership to drive forward with its implementation plans to improve the quality of play opportunities available to children and young people over the next three-year period.

Community delivery commenced in April 2008. Initial work has focussed on raising the profile of play through the delivery of Play Days and on building the local relationships required to support the next phase of community play provision development.

Five play days have been staged so far in Area North attracting interest from approximately 1,200 people - Tintinhull (approx 500 people), Curry Rivel (approx 27 people), Ilton (approx 22 people), Martock (approx 500 people), and Somerton (approx 127 people). For more details visit:

[www.southsomerset.gov.uk/playdays](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/playdays)

The team also assisted the South Somerset Play Association in the delivery of the National Play Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Ninesprings in Yeovil. An estimated 1,500 people from across the district attended the event. The day was themed around risky play and included a climbing wall, den building, camp fire for toasting marshmallows, puppet show, circus skills workshop, face painting, roller blading and much more.

Going forward, the Play Development Partnership and Play Development Officer will focus on:

- Embedding the 'Best Play Objectives' and 'Quality Play Environment' criteria as an integral part of the design brief when developing or improving play environments.
- Targeting resources towards increasing the quantity, and enhancing the quality, of the play environments to the communities with the greatest need for play improvements.

*For 2008-9, the Play Development Officer will target resources towards Tintinhull in Area North.*

- Increasing opportunities for adults to support the play of children and young people.
- Creating a destination play area that incorporates a high level of supervision at peak use times.
- Ensure play policy and associated guidelines are fully incorporated and adopted into planning, transport and community safety policy.

### **Play Areas / Youth Facilities**

Our range of Play Area / Youth Facility services includes:

- **Play Area / Youth Facility Design and Delivery:** A comprehensive delivery service for both the councils facilities and parish / town councils involving project planning, fund raising, community consultation, project design and procurement.

***The following progress has been achieved during the first 6 months in Area North:***

- **Bracey Road, Martock** – Consultation with local residents helped in the development of a design brief for this £53,577 regeneration project. Sketch designs for the play area have been produced and final design consultation to take place in Martock School with pupils from the school council and with Martock Youth Club and Youth Parish Council mid September.
- **Ash Parish Play Area** – A grant application was submitted to Area North Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and an award of £8,500 has been made towards the £20,687 project that will deliver a new Junior Multi Play Unit, 3.3m Cone Climber, Roundabout and a Spring Rider.
- **Montacute Parish Play Area** - A grant application was submitted to Area North Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and an award of £6,199 has been made towards the £12,398 project that will deliver a new Roundabout, Spring Rider and a Self Closing Pedestrian Gate.
- **Stoke sub Hamdon, Stone Hill Play Area** - Following advice, the Parish Council has secured funding and installed new fencing and access gates at their play area this summer.
- **Hamdown House, Langport** – This project relates to an outstanding requirement of a developer to provide a play area on their site. Officers assisted the development control team to overcome differences between the residents and the developer. This work resulted in the provision of a successful play area that meets its planning requirements and has local ownership.
- **Pitney Playing Field Play Area** – Following advice, the Parish Council has secured funding and installed a cone climber roundabout at their recreation ground this summer.

Alongside the completion of these projects, the service will be assisting Martock and Langport to develop Multi Use Games Area projects for their communities. Progress will also be made on the £20,000 of improvements planned for the Hills Lane play area in Martock.

In addition to these local projects, the service has progressed the development of the ***Yeovil Vision Flagship Playspace***, funded by the Big Lottery and the Yeovil Vision, to bring the goal of creating a destination playspace for South Somerset closer to reality. Award winning designers, Parklife, have been appointed and have assisted in a comprehensive and successful consultation exercise during the summer of 2008. A public exhibition of the sketch designs was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> August and the project is moving into the final design phase. Following a procurement phase we expect construction to start on site in the New Year and completion by July 2009. Visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/flagship](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/flagship) for more details. This project, once completed, is expected to have a major influence on the future design of play environments across the district.

- Play Area / Youth Facility Grant Aid Support: Advising, administering and monitoring the councils capital financial support scheme for play area / youth facility regeneration.

*Over and above the grants advice and administration aspects detailed in the summaries above, through the formation of the Somerset Play Partnership, the service has helped to secure an additional £758,000 for the enhancement of play areas across Somerset from Government. Whilst there are still a number of criteria and conditions to be met, it is anticipated that this work will deliver around £278,000 of additional benefit to South Somerset.*

- Play Area / Youth Facility Training: A range of play area / youth facility management, health and safety, risk assessment, inspection and maintenance training opportunities to assist volunteers and professional staff from parish / town councils across South Somerset and beyond.
- Play Area / Youth Facility Inspection: The comprehensive inspection regime required for play / youth facility provision through European Standard Directives delivery routine, operational and annual inspections and annual risk assessments for both the councils facilities and those of parish / town councils.

*In addition to covering the Council's own provision, the service carried out 15 annual playground inspections for parish councils in Area North, provided free quarterly playground inspection service for all not for profit play area providers, 4 programmes of routine inspections and 10 risk assessments for Town and Parish councils.*

- Play Area / Youth Facility / Public Open Space Planning Obligations: A service which sets out and secures the play area, youth facility and public open play space provision for new housing developments and secures commuted sums towards the costs of the first 10 years of management.

*In the current year the service has considered 6 planning enquiries or applications, resulting in £27,658 being requested towards equipped play provision and a further £4,222 being sought towards youth facilities.*

## Opportunities for Young People

The service appointed a new Young People Officer in July 2007 to deliver this area of our work to oversee the implementation of the Council's Young People Strategy 2006-2012. Our primary services include:

- Supporting the development of stimulating things to do and places to go. *These are delivered by the respective delivery teams responsible for play opportunities, youth facilities, sport, youth clubs, arts, heritage and countryside. The relevant Sport, Arts and Leisure areas are covered elsewhere within this report.*
- Supporting the development of new and existing youth clubs. *The service has provided:*
  - *Support to Seavington to establish a new Youth Club.*

- *A youth development grant of £500 to support South Petherton Youth Club to assist in the purchase of DJ equipment*
- *Overseen the processing of 4 CRB forms to assist clubs in attracting more volunteers to work with young people.*
- *The Fame Awards – to formally recognise and support volunteers working with young people. The Fame Awards was held this year on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at Ciniworld. From South Petherton, Hannah Strugnell was awarded Young Volunteer of the Year*
- **Developing targeted programmes for those who are disadvantaged or at risk.**
  - *The service co-ordinates the B-Active Programme in conjunction with leisure partners across the district. Launched in January 2008, the scheme aims to provide young people at “risk” (risk factors range from being bullied to exposure to drug misuse) with access to free leisure activities that may assist them to have more positive futures and encourage them to be more physically active, more often.*

*Both schemes are supported by Police Community Support Officers, School Teachers, Doctors, Connexions, Somerset Rural Youth Project, The Foyer, The Youth Offending Team and the Time Out Together Team who act as referrers through their daily contact with these children and young people. There have been 18 young people from Area North referred onto the B-Active Scheme and had access to free leisure opportunities for 3 months.*

- **Communicating local leisure opportunities.**

*The service assists in developing / updating website information on activities and opportunities for young people within South Somerset for the [www.Awsom.org.uk](http://www.Awsom.org.uk) activities search engine.*
- **Working with key strategic agencies to support the co-ordination of services and opportunities for young people.**

*The service represents the Council on the SCC Youth Matters Steering Group and links with the Senior Management Teams for the two new Local Service Teams responsible for providing integrated services for children and young people.*

## **The Arts**

*The Arts service co-ordinates, enables and delivers a number of core arts development services across South Somerset, including:*

- ✓ *Operation of the Octagon Theatre, the council’s flagship venue for high quality professional theatre, music, dance, cabaret, comedy, entertainment and art groups in Somerset.*

### **During the last year, the Theatre:**

- *Delivered 245 performances (20% local organisations / 80% professional performance companies).*



- Operated CRE8ive Arts – The Octagon’s visual art exhibition programme.
  - Operated CRE8 Theatre – The Octagon’s creative group for young people aged 11-19 years.
  - Hosted CRE8ive Writing – The Octagon’s literary programme.
  - Supported the Foyer Club – The Octagon’s team of volunteers who greet our customers at performances and show them to their seats.
  - Operated the Footlights Club – The Octagon’s special service to support regular attendees of the theatre.
  - Conducted a feasibility study to assess the future development options in conjunction with the Scrutiny Committee.
  - Progressed research to enable the Council to secure section 106 planning obligation contributions towards the future expansion of the Theatre from new housing developments.
- ✓ *The Village Performance Scheme – which brings top quality live arts and performances into around 25 rural villages each year.*
  - ✓ *Creative Art Schemes – which primarily enable young people to participate in high quality arts opportunities.*

**The service has supported the delivery of:**

- ***Alive and Kicking:*** A two-year programme encouraging healthy activity in young people through dance was delivered by Take Art, in Stanchester School, Castle Primary School, South Petherton Primary School, Huish Episcopi School, Langport Youth Centre, Somerton Youth Centre.
- ***Kindergardens:*** A theatre festival for preschool children included a performance in South Petherton.
- ***Out Loud:*** Actiontrack delivered singing project where young people learn different techniques and musical genres.
- ***Ham Hill Historic Fayre:*** SSDC Arts supported the countryside team in co-ordinating a community arts piece based on local folklore as part of the Ham Hill Historic Fayre in 2008.
- ***ArtsXChange:*** In association with Social Services, the countywide Local Authority Arts Partnership has supported a two year, multi disciplinary programme of storytelling, dance and music for people with a learning disability. Participants from across the district have benefited; of particular note, the storytelling sessions held on Ham Hill were heralded as a great success and inspiration!
- ***Summer performance in Langport Town Gardens:*** Quantum Theatre Company performed A Midsummer Nights Dream to approx 200 residents.

- **Somerset Art Weeks 2008:** Open Studios 13-28<sup>th</sup> September in support of the open studios event, SSDC Arts is working with Somerset Art Works (note the change in name) to encourage young people to take part in the event. This has included a film making project and a programme of film and animation workshops for schools using the community bus.
- **The Young People's Arts Award:** Somerset Partnership for Arts in Education (SPAEDA) supported students from Huish Episcopi school in achieving this Arts Council initiative; teachers from the school have also qualified as award advisors.
- ✓ *Public Art Schemes – which looks to secure greater public art and support the community regeneration.*
- ✓ *Artist Support Scheme – which looks to assist local artists to develop and present innovative pieces of work.*
  - **Reveal Somerset:** At a symposium in Langport in May, Reveal brought artists, filmmakers and curators together to ask what arts organisations can do together to build audiences, to raise our profile and to make Somerset practice more sustainable for more people. It was co-ordinated by some of our funded arts organisations.
  - **Somerset Guild of Craftsmen:** Supported the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen to raise the profile of local craft by participating in a regional event in Winchester.

*During the next 6-months, the service will be working on:*

- **South Somerset Arts Directory** An audit of voluntary groups and clubs has been carried out. It will be available in print and on the website and will prove a valuable resource in advertising the range of activities available within the community.
- **Arts and Young People** An audit of arts activities for young people in the district was carried out. It will be mapped to give a picture of what is available and will identify where there is limited opportunity for children and young people to participate in the arts.
- **Step Change** As a follow on from the Alive and Kicking programme, Take Art will be delivering a further programme of dance across the county, extended to include older people and people with learning disabilities.
- **Golden Oldies** Starting a programme of weekly singing sessions for elderly people. In Area North this will initially centre on Laburnum Drive in Somerton.
- **River Parrett Trail** With Somerset Art Works, looking at piloting a “Big Draw” event with local schools.
- **Somerset Guild of Craftsmen** Investigating volunteering opportunities at the Courthouse in Somerton.
- **The David Hall, South Petherton** With the Trust and Management we will be reviewing opportunities and programmes of arts activities for young people.



Members may be interested to note, that in addition to the David Hall, Area North is now home to many of the county's best professional arts organisations including Take Art, Actiontrack, SPAEDA, Somerset Art Works, Folk South West, and Artsmatrix.

*This service is in the process of preparing a new Arts Strategic Framework to focus future resources. As part of this the service has conducted an audit of Community Arts Activity across the district, which will soon be published as a printed and web-based directory. This also maps the opportunities for creative activities for young people to show the picture of local provision.*

### **Active Lifestyles Development**

Our primary services include:

- Supporting targeted communities to establish activity teams and programmes.
- Developing community based Active Health Programmes with health practitioners.
- Delivering and expanding the ProActive GP Referral Service with health practitioners.
- Encouraging Active Workplaces.
- Developing targeted programmes for those at risk.

The programme is delivered in partnership with the Somerset Primary Care Trust.

### ***Active Communities (targeted active lifestyle support):***

- Working in partnership with South Petherton GP's surgery and South Petherton Parish Council to hold Health Fairs at the surgery for residents to attend for their free Health MOT's, health and nutritional advice. GP's were present as well to be able to help with the signposting for any medical queries the attendees had. This has now become a regular twice-yearly event from the CAL Team in partnership with South Petherton PC and Surgery.
- Free Health MOT's in conjunction with Area Development's 'Afternoon Tea' in June and July in Somerton, Langport, Curry Rivel, South Petherton, Stoke and Martock including body fat percentage, fitness testing, peak flow, height and weight and Blood Sugar testing – a total of 64% of people in Area North that were Blood Pressure tested were referred to the GP or Practice Nurse for Mild/Moderate Hypertension (High Blood Pressure).
- Attended the Langport and Somerton Rotary Club Forum to promote active lifestyles and offer health testing to the public.
- Attended the Annual Area North Town and Parish Councils Meeting at Long Sutton Village Hall to forge links with communities and give examples of good practice in communities the CAL Team have already been working with.

- Working in partnership with Community Development and Age Concern in Area North to offer support for those in sheltered housing schemes.
- A Tai Chi taster session was held at Ridgeway Hall through the Active Living Centre. 25 people took part in this session and included a range of abilities including standing, seated and wheelchair users.
- Working in partnership with SREC to create physical activity opportunities in Area North for BME groups.

### **Active Somerset**

- 4 Active Somerset courses have been developed including Tai Chi and Keep Fit. In total over 40 residents of Area North attended the Active Somerset sessions.
- A Tai Chi course booked to start in Somerton in September 2008.

#### *ProActive (GP Referral to Exercise Scheme)*

- Supported Stanchester Sports Centre in the development of their GP Referral portfolio and as a result of this they passed their recognition and are now accepting referrals at their centre in Stoke Sub Hamdon.
- 13 residents from Area North referred to Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre through the ProActive Scheme.
- 4 residents from Area North referred to Stanchester Sports Centre in Stoke through the ProActive Scheme.
- Continued support is provided to the centres to ensure that the scheme continues to run and update meetings are provided for instructors and centre managers, the last one was on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

### **Active Workplaces**

- An Active Workplace Challenge (Weight Loss) for SSDC staff at Kelways (approx 15 stone was lost by participants cumulatively).
- An Active Workplace Challenge for SSDC staff (Pedometer Challenge) at Kelways.(approx 1 million steps were walked by staff during this challenge (approx 500 miles)).

### ***Flexercise (training for volunteers to lead chair-based exercise):***

- Flexercise workshops held in Area North with Area North leaders attending. 4 Flexercise Leaders trained in Area North since April 2008. 15 Flexercise Leaders trained in Area North since February 2006.
- A Flexercise taster session held at Ridgeway Hall in Langport through the Active Living Centre. Participants included a variety of abilities, learning disabilities and wheelchair users.
- Flexercise taster session held for the Langport Luncheon Group at All Saints Hall. 6 people took part in the session.

### ***Health Walks (volunteer led walks)***

- Health Walk promotion around the whole of Area North. 4 Health Walk Leader training days per year with a guaranteed training day in Area North. Distribution of the areas walks and contacts for setting up new walks with the Health Walk Co-ordinator in South Somerset.
- July's Health Walk Leader Training Day was held at the Great Bow Yard in Langport, utilising a community facility and promoting Eco Living.
- 7 new Health Walk Leaders since April 2008 in Area North: 2 in Somerton, 2 in Curry Rivel and 3 in South Petherton/Lopen.
- Launched a Health Walking Programme and group in Lopen, which is self sufficient and sustainable.
- The continuation of the Stoke Health Walk Programme with number of walkers in excess of 20-30 per walk.
- Working in partnership with Somerset PCT and Somerset MIND to create a series of 'Soul Walks' (Health Walks focussing on people with Mental Health Issues), a series of the walks to take place in Area North in October 2008.
- Development of South Petherton Walking Group in conjunction with the South Petherton Community (covering South Petherton, Martock and Somerton).
- Support for the Langport International Walking Festival In June 2008.

### **Work planned for second half of 08/09 includes:**

- The annual Health Fair in Stoke-sub-Hamdon to take place in Jan 2009 in Stoke Memorial Hall.
- The launch of a Tai Chi class in the Parish Rooms in Somerton on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.
- A Health Fair in South Petherton, in conjunction with the Parish Council and GP Surgery in September.
- An Active Somerset Keep Fit class to launch in Martock Parish Hall in Sept/Oct.
- Supporting Mental Health Week in October through the Soul Walks in Area North.
- A Health Walks Leaders Lunch and Networking Session for all volunteers in Area's North, South, East and West.
- Working in partnership with the Healthy Workplace Manager at SCC to link in with Huish Leisure Centre in Langport to offer an Active Somerset class.
- Continuation of Health Walk Leader Training Days, with at least one per year in Area North.

- Continuation of Flexercise Training Days, with at least one per year in Area North.
- Continue to support and fund the Stoke Health Walking Group.
- Development of Buggy Walks in Somerton.
- Development of Health Walks in Somerton through the GP Surgery – they are to sign-post targeted people to the walks.

## **Sport Development**

Our primary services include:

- Supporting the development and implementation of sport specific development plans.
- Supporting the development of new and existing sport clubs.
- Supporting the development of coaches, volunteers and officials.
- Making the most of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As part of a series of steps taken to increase capacity in this important area, the service works in partnership with the Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership, South East Somerset School Sport Partnership and the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

### ***Sports Specific Development***

Sport specific planning aims to address the vital need for co-ordinated structures, pathways and systems to strengthen schools, clubs and development squads. This ensures resources are deployed to best effect.

- **Tennis:**
  - Continued the South Somerset Mini Tennis Summer Series, which was set up in 2006 to provide competitive opportunities for junior tennis players across the district. 153 junior tennis players have attended the 12 events that make up the Summer Series, which started in April. In Area North, Martock Tennis Club has hosted 4 of the 16 events.
  - Active Somerset is a two-year countywide project to increase the number of adults taking part in sport and active recreation. South Somerset Tennis Development Group recognised a need to increase the number of adult members within their club. Established 12 week 'Learn to Play' Tennis course at South Petherton Tennis Club, which was attended by 23 participants new to tennis.
- **Bowls:**
  - South Somerset Bowls Open Day held in June, attended by over 80 people new to bowls with 7 clubs each holding coaching and taster sessions on the same day. The following clubs from Area North took part in the day to

support clubs with increasing their membership: Somerton & District Bowls Club and South Petherton Bowls Club.

- **Cricket:**
  - South Somerset Cricket Development Group organised a Cricket Development workshop in partnership with Somerset County Cricket Club to update clubs on ECB developments. 4 Cricket clubs from Area North attended: Curry Rivel CC, Huish & Langport CC, Long Sutton CC and Martock CC.
- **Rugby Union:**
  - Established the South Somerset and Mendip Community Rugby Partnership to lead the development of Rugby Union in South Somerset. In partnership with Somerset RFU, a dedicated full-time community rugby coach has been appointed and will be working with 5 clubs in South Somerset. In Area North, the coach will work in 2008/09 with Martock RFC to target Yr 7 pupils at Stanchester and Huish Episcopi and also provide coaching at primary schools in Martock, Ash, Kingsbury, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, South Petherton and Montacute.

### Club Development

- Produced the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the South Somerset A-Z Sport & Leisure Directory 2008-09, which provides a wide range of sport and active leisure opportunities available in South Somerset. This year's directory has 145 sports club details; ensuring residents can find sports clubs nearest to them. 29 clubs from Area North are included in the directory.
- Held a Club Development Evening for sports clubs across South Somerset in April to update them on the launch of our new School Club Link Resource Pack, the new 5-hour offer work from Sport England and information about Active Somerset project. 25 clubs, 4 from Area North, attended the evening: Martock Tennis Club, TAGB Tae Kwon Do, Somerton Tennis Club and Martock Rugby Club.
- Delivered an Awards for All workshop in partnership with SASP to assist clubs to prepare funding applications, with 25 club members attending. Martock Short Mat Bowls have received £2,453 for an electronic roller for their indoor bowls mats as result of this workshop and officer support.
- Provided individual dedicated officer support through our Club Development Programme to Somerton Tennis Club, TAGB Tae Kwon Do, Martock Rugby Club and Martock Short Mat Bowls Club, to support the development aspirations and growth of these clubs.

Plans for the next 6-month period include:

- A 10-week Street Sports programme delivered in partnership with SASP for young people beginning in late September taking place in 5 locations across South Somerset. In Area North, Street Sports will take place on the MUGA's at the following venues: Curry Rivel, Shepton Beauchamp and Norton-sub-Hamdon. This programme is a government initiative and has been funded by Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust '5 hour offer' to encourage all young

people to take part in 2 hours of sport in school and 3 hours of sport outside of school time by 2012.

- South Somerset Mini Tennis Winter Series 2008 starts in September and provides competitive opportunities for junior tennis players across the district. 13 events will make up the winter series for Mini Tennis Red, Orange, Green and Full Tennis. Martock Tennis Club will have junior players participating in this series, and will host 4 of the 13 events.
- A Clubmark Evening to be delivered in October to encourage the number of sports clubs across South Somerset who achieve accreditation from their National Governing Body. There are currently 13 sports clubs with NGB accreditation or Clubmark (excluding the FA Charter Standard Scheme). 2 of these clubs are in Area North. Martock and Somerton Tennis Clubs are currently undertaking Clubmark and will be supported at the workshop.
- Working with the Community Safety Partnership and Yeovil Town FC Community Sports Trust on a project to deliver floodlit soccer sessions in a number of 'hot spot' areas identified as having high levels of anti-social behaviour. This project follows the success of using Street Soccer in Yeovil to help with social exclusion. *(This project is subject to a bid to the Football Foundation).*
- South Somerset Coach & Volunteer Education Programme commences in October 2008 with 6 courses in 2008/09 aimed at furthering the existing skills of coaches and volunteers. Courses include Safeguarding and Protecting Children, Equity in your Coaching and Emergency First Aid.
- The South Somerset Sport Awards 2008 will be taking place at Westlands Leisure and Conference Centre on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November. 9 award categories will be open to coaches, volunteers and sports performers from across South Somerset to recognise and reward the contribution of people involved in community sport. Our special guest this year is Stephen Parry, Olympic Bronze Medal Winner in the 200m butterfly at the Athens Olympics 2004. The 2007 awards were extremely successful, with over 40 nominations, 6 of these were from Area North.

### **Leisure Facility Development/Management**

The key services areas involved are:

- Providing sports clubs and community organisations with specialist advice on facility refurbishment, development and funding opportunities.
- Providing good practice guidance and consultancy support on the maintenance and management of facilities to the local providers of sports pitches and recreation grounds.
- Identifying and reviewing built leisure facility and playing pitch needs across the district in order to determine the correct strategy to address future leisure facility requirements.
- Working with Adult Learning and Leisure to maximise access to the existing dual use sports facilities and ensure that they are managed in the most effective, efficient and sustainable way.



- Negotiating contributions from housing developments to enhance local and strategic sport and recreation facility provision where required.
- Maximising the use, operation and financial performance of the Council's sport and recreation facilities and provide facilities that meet the needs of our customers.

To date, this has resulted in the following achievements:

***Of district wide benefit:***

- District PPG 17 Sport and Recreation Assessment Update – draft due to presented to committee by year end. This strategy identifies a number of strategic facility needs for Area North which will be illustrated at the meeting.
- District Playing Pitch Strategy updated – draft due to be presented to committee by year-end. This strategy helps to provide the evidence base to secure developers contributions.
- Passport to Leisure scheme re-launched. Over 60's now get 20% discount at SSDC facilities without having to apply for a card.
- Football Facilities Funding workshop held at Brympton Way Council Offices in conjunction with the FA. Nineteen people attended, four from Area North, four from Area East, eight from Area West and three from Area South.
- In conjunction with Sports Development, helped liase with partners to secure a part time coach for athletics, who will seek to develop performance, mentor new coaches and increase participation in across the district.
- Ninety-five young people attended our popular 3-day summer Startrack athletics camp at Yeovil Athletics Arena (7.4% from Area East, 26.3% from Area North, 43.2% from Area South, 1% from Area West and 22.1% from outside the district).

***Area specific work:***

- Funding advice given to Fivehead Playing Field Committee in order to develop their tennis facilities (ongoing support being provided by Adrian Moore and Les Collett as now a Multi-Use Games Area project).
- In principle developers contributions for sports facilities secured from the following:
  - Lyddons Farm, Curry Mallet – agreement completed
  - Lightgate Lane, South Petherton – agreement completed
  - West End South Petherton - agreement still to be drafted
- Officer time committed to support key stakeholders at Somerton Sports Ground in order to progress their bid for funding for new changing facilities at Gassons Lane.
- Advice given to Curry Rivel Parish Council, Martock Parish Council, Stoke-sub Hamdon Recreation Trust and Kingsbury Episcopi on sports facility projects.

Plans for the next 6-month period include:

***Of district wide benefit:***

- Update the draft 2005 South Somerset built Facilities Strategy and present to members for adoption by the end of the year. The Head of Sport, Arts & Leisure will update Members on a number of the key future strategic facility planning issues at the meeting.
- Community / Village Hall Supply and Demand Modelling – the service is working with the Area Development Teams to establish a model similar to those used in the planning of swimming pools and sports halls, to enable the Council to secure planning contributions where developments generate additional demand for provision in our rural and market town settlements.
- Undertake the necessary project work in order that members can take informed decisions about the future of the Sports Zone project.
- Pilot further relevant courses/workshops to support local recreation trusts/local town and parish Council's in the management of their local sports facilities.

***Area specific work:***

- Work with Adult Learning and Leisure to look at upgrading the facilities at Huish Episcopi Sports Centre as part of the previously agreed SCC Dual Use Capital Programme – awaiting details of their improvement programme.
- Support the progression of a bid to the Football Foundation for new changing facilities at Somerton Sports Club.
- Support Martock Parish Council to secure funding for a new pavilion as necessary.
- Support the Area North Community Development Officer in working with SPRUG (at South Petherton) to enhance on-site changing facilities.

**Financial Implications**

No new financial implications stem from this report.

**Implications for Corporate Priorities**

No new implications for the corporate priorities stem from this report.

**Other Implications**

None.

**Conclusions**

This report has aimed to provide a clearer picture of what the service is trying to achieve within Area North. Overall, the service has endeavored to provide strong service to deliver and support residents aspirations for Sport, Arts and Leisure across the area in line with our district-wide strategic aims and resource constraints. The service would welcome any comments or suggestions to improve the delivery of our services in Area North. Suggestions will be fed into the 2009-10 Service Planning process.