

Part I  
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Main author: Milan Johnston  
Executive Member: Terry Mitchinson  
All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2019  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

**SPORT PARTNERSHIPS ANNUAL REPORT APRIL – NOVEMBER 2019**

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Between April and November 2019 the delivery of partnership work around sport, sports development and some physical activity programmes was undertaken by our Sports Partnership Officer.
- 1.2 The new Sports Partnership Officer (start in January 2019) has established new relationships with clubs and organisations and effectively engaged with the community through various projects, programmes and campaigns.
- 1.3 Successes so far this financial year include; the delivery of the national campaign This Girl Can, Fit Fed and Read and the setup of WelHat Sports.
- 1.4 Whilst as an authority we deliver a huge amount of sport and physical activity programmes a lot of the work undertaken is often in partnership with other organisations and delivery groups.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the content of this annual report.

**3 Explanation**

The Service's key activities and events over the past year are set out below:

**3.1 This Girl Can**

- 3.1.1 The weeklong national campaign returned to Welwyn Hatfield running from the 17-23 June. Local partners and organisations were able to showcase all the available opportunities for women and girls in the borough. A total of 28 local sports clubs, organisations and leisure providers delivered over 45 sport and physical activity sessions for women and girls across the week.
- 3.1.2 These activities consisted of free taster sessions, discounted and paid for sessions all of which were held at various locations across the borough. Some activities included: Daughter and parent Golf session, Back 2 Netball, Trampolining (Neuro diverse), Breeze Cycling, Self-defence, Bootcamp, SEN Yoga and Friday night Kicks.

- 3.1.3 One specific highlight was our successful Primary Schools football tournament (10 Schools, totalling 92 girls) for years 4-6.
- 3.1.4 The campaign brought us the opportunity to discuss and promote the work of the Council and its partners around women and girls sport on the radio with BBC Three Counties.
- 3.1.5 The campaign estimated that 300 women and girls took part in an activity throughout the weeklong campaign. We continue to support the sustainability of these projects by providing exit route information to women and girls.

## 3.2 WelHat Sports

- 3.2.1 In April it was decided by the Welwyn Hatfield Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (WHSPAA) committee at an Emergency General Meeting to disband WHSPAA and form WelHat Sports.
- 3.2.2 The new organisation provides a refreshing new direction and leadership for sports within the borough, providing a central hub where clubs and organisations can access information, resources and advice which will assist with increasing sport and physical activity opportunities and maximise participation within Welwyn Hatfield.
- 3.2.3 WelHat Sports is managed by the Council and consists of club forums and steering group leads who are knowledgeable and experienced and assist WelHat Sports to achieve their priorities.
- 3.2.4 WelHat Sports key priorities are:
  - To provide support, guidance and advice to sports clubs within Welwyn Hatfield
  - To build positive and effective relationships with clubs and organisations
  - To work in partnership to support local and national campaigns which aim to increase participation in sport and physical activity
  - Provide a central point of information to help sports and physical activity providers in Welwyn Hatfield
- 3.2.5 Membership of WelHat Sports is open to any individual, club, School, leisure provider and any other organisations working in or wanting to work within Welwyn Hatfield.
- 3.2.6 In partnership with Herts Sports Partnership we delivered a Club forum in April to launch the new organisation. There were presentations on various topics including funding both local and national and club essentials which consisted of marketing tools and volunteering. Over 30 clubs, organisations and leisure providers attended. We will continue to deliver a club forum each year focusing on different topics.

3.2.7 We have also been working on content for the new website, we are in the early stages working with the designers which will launch towards the end of the year

### 3.3 Friday Night Kicks

3.3.1 We are continuing to work in partnership with Stevenage Football Foundation to deliver the diversionary anti-social behaviour programme.

3.3.2 YMCA, YC Herts and Herts Constabulary also assist in the delivery of the project by attending each week to offer support and advice to the young people.

3.3.3 In May, it was decided to change the location from Gosling Sports Park to the Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre. Stevenage FF also decided to remove the £1 entry fee and change the timings to 7-8.30pm.

3.3.4 Since the change in location the attendance levels have been more consistent with 25-30 young people attending on a weekly basis. Between May and August there were 42 young male and females signed up onto the project with a total of 210 attendances, and from September until October there have been 171 attendances with 58 young people signed up onto the project.

3.3.5 Overall, there has been a total of 381 attendances between May and October from a mixture of male and female 11-17 year olds.

3.3.6 The project is continuing to develop the young people in our community with one attendee successfully securing a place in the Stevenage Football Development Academy.

3.3.7 Kicks has also been a contributing factor towards addressing the anti-social behaviour across the borough with ASB figures this year reduced by 18% compared to last year.

3.3.8 The project has been nominated for a Hertfordshire Service to Sports Awards as Community Project of the Year.

3.3.9 In partnership with this Council, Stevenage Football Foundation have successfully secured funding from Premier League Kicks to continue the project for the next 3 years.

### 3.4 Girls dance project

3.4.1 As we continue to try and address some of the anti-social behaviour issues within the borough, in June we launched a street dance project aimed at girl's aged 11-16.

3.4.2 The project, based in Welwyn Garden City Town Centre is delivered term time only by FK Dance Academy and costs £1 per session and since the project began there have been over 80 attendances.

### 3.5 Fit Fed and Read

- 3.5.1 The Council and Herts Sports Partnership continue to work in partnership to deliver the free holiday activity programme which provides physical activity, support with literacy as well as a nutritious meal, targeting 8-11 year olds from the most economically disadvantaged families in Hertfordshire. The programme is about trying to tackle holiday hunger, social isolation and inactivity during the holidays.
- 3.5.2 This year the project was delivered 4 days a week during the Easter and summer holidays at Hatfield Fire Station. There were 27 young people referred onto the project during the summer which consisted of 17 males and 10 females.
- 3.5.3 Over the course of the summer there were 243 attendances, averaging 15 children a day with 8.9 years as the average age. The sessions are limited to numbers due to space and coach to child ratio however, there is a waiting list.
- 3.5.4 Herts Sports Partnership have secured funding through the Big Lottery Community Fund which will enable the project to continue to be delivered for the next three years.

### 3.6 Welwyn Hatfield Primary School Games

- 3.6.1 The Council continue to support and part fund the Schools Sports Partnership to deliver the annual Primary School games.
- 3.6.2 This year saw a Tokyo 2020 theme with Mayor Roger Trigg, Herby the Hertfordshire stag and Taiko drummers from Monk's Walk School officially opening the games.
- 3.6.3 Over 500 year 5 pupils from across 16 primary Schools in the Borough took part in traditional Olympic sports, with a new addition skateboarding which will be making its Olympics debut in 2020.
- 3.6.4 Plans are now underway for the 2020 games which will have a centenary theme.

### 3.7 Xplorer

- 3.7.1 Xplorer, the free outdoor navigational challenge aimed at primary and pre-school children took place at Stanborough (North and South Side), Moneyhole Lane Park, and King George V Welwyn Garden City during each of the School holidays between February and August, a total of six sessions.
- 3.7.2 New to this year was Xplorer in both Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield Town Centre. Four sessions took place across various events including Healthfest, Big Summer presents and Skate camp.
- 3.7.3 We delivered a total of 10 sessions between February and August, engaging with over 340 children and their families. The event is deemed very popular at the parks and we hope to increase the numbers across the town centres.

3.7.4 The next session will take place during the October half term at Stanborough Park which will be a Halloween special.

### 3.8 Big Summer

3.8.1 We worked closely with organisations and partners to provide a variety of sport and physical activity opportunities for young people aged 0-19 throughout the campaign.

3.8.2 Some highlights include, A-Z Basketball delivering six sessions for ages 3-19 to develop skills and technique, engaging with over 80 young people in one day.

3.8.3 A Girls Football Festival for ages 10-12 was delivered in partnership with Stevenage Football Foundation at the Ridgeway Academy. The session involved one to one coaching, skills and technique development and fun games.

3.8.4 We worked closely with Potential Kids and SPACE two charity organisations who work with and support SEN children.

3.8.5 Potential Kids delivered a Trampoline session at Gosling Sports Park and a Yoga session for SEN children and their siblings, both were successful and sold out.

3.8.6 SPACE delivered a Karate session for SEN children and their families which again was deemed a very successful event which sold out.

### 3.9 Healthfest

3.9.1 The annual Healthfest events in both town centres were able to benefit from an added sport and physical activity influence this year

3.9.2 Hatfield activities included; ladies breeze cycling ride, beginner's breeze cycling ride, ABC Skateboarding tuition, Stevenage Football Foundation penalty shooter, Smoothie Bikes and Xplorer.

3.9.3 Welwyn Garden City highlights included: Xplorer, WelHat Sports, WelHat Cycling, and Herts Health Walks.

### 3.10 World Hatfield Festival

3.10.1 To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the first flight of the Comet a weeklong celebration was put on by Hatfield Town Council and to assist with this we pulled together a week long sports offer with the support from the Hatfield Community Sport Fund.

3.10.2 On 25 July we delivered a day of sporting activities in Hatfield Town centre, badged as 'Have a go day.' Various activities including: Skateboarding tuition, football 2v2 cage, football speed shooter, mini golf and inflatable activities. A lunch time event 'Give your Town the Run Around' also took place which consisted of a 1k loop which over 50 people participated.

3.10.3 We also co-ordinated a corporate inflatable assault course for local businesses and assisted with the planning of the World Hatfield Festival which was due to take place at Birchwood Leisure Centre but unfortunately got cancelled due to the bad weather.

### 3.11 King George V Skate Park Redevelopment

3.11.1 Further to the consultation that took place earlier this year with the local skate community, it was evident that the Skatepark required a redevelopment as the current state is not fit for purpose.

3.11.2 Section 106 funds have been allocated to contribute to the overall cost of a redevelopment however, it was noted that to make the project worthwhile, we wanted to provide a Skatepark facility which satisfies and meets the desires of the local skate community where possible.

3.11.3 A funding application was made to Sport England and their Community Asset grant. Sport England announced in late September a conditional offer of £35,000 towards the project.

3.11.4 There is now potentially £70,000 in total to help with the redevelopment of the skatepark. Next steps are to work closely with the local skate community through focus groups and colleagues within the council to make this happen. The redevelopment will coincide with other planned developments taking place across the park.

### 3.12 Sports Facilities Strategy

3.12.1 The Council have commissioned 4global Consulting and Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) to prepare a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and a Built Facilities Strategy (BFS), to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and guide future provision and management of new sports pitches, outdoor and indoor sports facilities in the Welwyn Hatfield area in the context of national policy and local sports development criteria.

3.12.2 The document is currently in the process of being signed off by Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of Sport, with the aim to come back to this committee in early January for sign off.

### 3.13 Local Football Facilities Plan

3.13.1 The National Football facilities strategy is a 10 year strategy to change the landscapes of football facilities in England and the benefits they provide.

3.13.2 Each local authority will have a local football facilities plan. The council is working closely with Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP) who have been commissioned to do the consultations with local partners and local authorities to identify areas where new/refurbished facilities are needed and identify agreed projects.

3.13.3 A local assessments need will determine the type of investment required. When the LFFP is complete, The Football Foundation supported by the County FA will provide local support to help deliver the agreed projects.

3.13.4 By 2020 all local authorities should have a completed Local Football Facilities Plan.

#### 3.14 Community Use Agreements

3.14.1 The Council continue to work with local sport facilities to make sure that the community use agreements are in place.

3.14.2 The agreement is in place to ensure that local community clubs have access to affordable sports facilities.

3.14.3 The Ridgeway Academy is a good example of a community use agreement as they have school usage during the day, and then the community have access to the facilities after 4.30pm. This ensures that the facilities are not left empty during non-teaching time.

### **4 Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications directly relating to the content of this report.

### **5 Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications directly related to the content of this report. The Service has its own budget which is agreed annually as part of the Council's overall budget process.

### **6 Risk Management Implications**

6.1 There are no risk management implications directly relating to the content of this report.

### **7 Security and Terrorism Implications**

7.1 There are no implications for security and terrorism arising from this report.

### **8 Procurement Implications**

8.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report

### **9 Climate Change Implications**

9.1 There are no climate change implications directly relating to the content of this report.

### **10 Link to Corporate Priorities**

10.1 The content of this report is linked to the council's corporate priority for 'Our Community.'

## **11 Communication Plan**

- 11.1 A communication plan is put together for almost all the work that is undertaken. We promote our projects and activities to the residents through the Council's Social Media platforms and press releases, as well as WelHat Sports Twitter account. We also promote through the Heads Up and Life magazine.

## **12 Health and Wellbeing**

- 12.1 We work closely in partnership with Herts Sports Partnership, Public Health colleagues (WHBC and HCC) and other outside agencies to ensure all residents have the best opportunities to live long and healthy lives through providing sport and physical activity opportunities.

## **13 Equality and Diversity**

- 13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out in relation to this report, as it is for information only.

<b>Name of author</b>	(01707) 357174
<b>Date</b>	November 2019
<b>Title</b>	Milan Johnston