

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PLACES) MEETING

MINUTES

The minutes of the 6th meeting of the Places SMIG held on Tuesday 15th October at 1.30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT

Paul Cummings, Chair (Sport Northern Ireland)
Caro-Lynne Ferris (Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland)
Ciaran Donnelly (Department for Social Development)
Bob Bleakley (Northern Ireland Environment Agency)
Stephen McGeehan (Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association)
Ciaran Mulholland (CAFRE/DARD)
Claire McVeigh (Disability Sports Northern Ireland)
Katie Nixon (Northern Ireland Sports Forum)

In attendance:

Stephen McIlveen (Sport Northern Ireland)

1.0 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the 6th meeting of the Places SMIG and thanked everyone for their attendance. The Chair provided a short summation of his remarks made during the opening session.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Chris Webster (Irish Rugby Football Union, Ulster Branch), Patrick Nelson (Irish Football Association), Jim Rose (Chief Leisure Officers Association) and Steven Law (Department for Education).

3.0 REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE 5TH PLACES SMIG MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2013

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Chair informed the group that Sport NI's Community Use of School Sports Facilities Guidance Document (Your School, Your Club) is nearing completion. The Chair further advised that a joint ministerial launch (between DCAL & DE) of the publication is anticipated in late November. The Chair thanked the Department for Education (DE) for their contribution to Your School, Your Club, and in particular noted the efforts of Steven Law (DE) and his team.

5.0 MEMBER UPDATES

- 5.1 The Chair invited members to provide a verbal update on significant actions that had been undertaken (since the last meeting) by each of the representative organisations which contributed to the implementation of Sport Matters.
- 5.2 Members heard of the Ulster Council's work with regards to the redevelopment of Casement Park; Outdoor Recreation's launch of four mountain bike trail centres, DSD's investment in areas of social deprivation, in particular boxing clubs, and DSNI's involvement in the ISF accreditation scheme. DSNI advised of new Design & Management Guidelines relating to accessing sports stadia for people with disabilities, and further advised of the potential development of an accreditation scheme for stadia, which is currently under consideration. The NIEA updated on on-going work that aims to maximise the use of NIEA properties and DARD/CAFRE updated on specialist training for sports turf maintenance.
- 5.3 NIEA advised members of efforts to increase recreation opportunities within Redburn Country Park (Holywood). The Chair suggested contacting Sport NI to discuss, whilst the Northern Ireland Sports Forum offered their assistance in linking governing bodies to potential opportunities.

Action 1: NIEA to contact Sport NI and NI Sports Forum to progress potential opportunities at Redburn Country Park.

- 5.4 Outdoor Recreation NI advised members of the positive impact that the Castlewellan Pump Track is having on the local community, particularly young people who may be at risk. With this in mind, Outdoor Recreation advised members of a potential funding opportunity to develop a BMX track in a residential area of high social deprivation in Dungannon town. Outdoor Recreation asked if DSD would be interested in discussing the project further. DSD agreed and passed appropriate contact details.

Action 2: Outdoor Recreation NI to contact DSD with regards to discussing funding opportunities for a BMX Track in urban Dungannon.

6.0 CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORT

- 6.1 The Progress Report was considered and approved by members.

7.0 CONSIDERATION OF TARGETS REVIEW PAPER

- 7.1 The Targets Review Paper was considered and approved by members.

8.0 PRESENTATION PAPER FROM STEPHEN MCILVEEN – PL25

- 8.1 Stephen McIlveen delivered a paper updating members on progress relating to Places target PL25. The group heard that CLOA's comments relating to issues with Quest in Northern Ireland had been forwarded to

Leisure Net/Right Directions (Quest contractors) for consideration. Members were advised that the contractors do not intend to make any immediate changes to the scheme, regardless of comments from Northern Ireland, due to the scheme performing well in other areas of the UK.

8.2 Members were also updated on discussions between Sport NI & CLOA representatives regarding the potential development of a Northern Ireland accreditation scheme for leisure. The group were told that there would be no appetite for such a development at this stage, given the on-going pressures and priorities associated with the Review of Public Administration.

8.3 Finally, members were advised that as a result of an action from the previous meeting, other accreditation schemes had now been included in measuring progress against target PL25. Members were further advised that the percentage of the population now accessing accredited leisure sites had increased to 73%. It was agreed by all members that significant progress had been made and all noted that there may be other accreditation schemes to consider and other facilities to be included.

Action 3: The Chair requested that Sport NI continue to measure progress against the target and present a further update at the next meeting.

Action 4: The Chair suggested that Sport NI should define Quality Accreditation and confirm with members what schemes should be included or excluded.

8.4 The Chair initiated some discussion on member's interpretation of target PL25. The Chair suggested that emphasis should be placed on accessing quality multi-sport environments, but not necessarily environments that have successfully undertaken a quality accreditation scheme. The Chair asked members if too much emphasis was being placed on 'accreditation', and if so, does this take away from the true aim of the target. Members agreed. The Chair requested that:

Action 5: Sport NI considers the potential for re-profiling the target, which could continue to encourage quality, multi-sport environments accessible within 20 minutes, but not necessarily restrict the target to accreditation.

8.5 DSNI queried why target PL25 is rated as Green, considering its Amber rating following the previous SMIG meeting. The Chair confirmed that the percentage of the population currently accessing quality accredited, multi-sport facilities had increased significantly (73%), and beyond the 2007 base-line as a result of widening the measurement criteria beyond Quest accreditation. The Chair concluded by suggesting that the target was no longer at risk from not being achieved, considering that a number of District Councils have yet to submit information on accreditation and private sector facilities have yet to be included.

9.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 Stephen McGeehan (Ulster Council) offered to present the 3D visuals for Casement Park at the next meeting of the Places SMIG.

Action 6: Sport NI to include a presentation from the Ulster Council (re redevelopment of Casement Park) on the agenda of the next Places SMIG.

10.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The Chair advised that the dates for the next SMIG meetings will be confirmed following the Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting in November 2013.