

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

PLACES SMIG MEETING

The minutes of a meeting of the Places SMIG held on Tuesday 18th January 2011 at 2.30pm at Sport Northern Ireland, House of Sport.

PRESENT

Chair: Alan Strong, SNI

**Members: Barry Macauley, SNI
Brian McCargo, SNI
Nigel Carr, Northern Ireland Sports Forum (NISF)
Chris Webster, Ulster Branch Irish Rugby Football Union (UBIRFU)
Paul Mooney, Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD)
Ivor McMullan, Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA)
Tony McKibben, Dept for Social Development (DSD)
Caro-lyne Ferris, Countryside Access & Activities Network (CAAN)
Stephen McGeehan, Ulster Council GAA (UCGAA)**

Attendees: Philip Faithfull, Ballymena Borough Council

**SNI Staff: Nick Harkness
Jamie Uprichard
Stephen McIlveen
Paul Scott
Gillian Gilliland**

ACTION

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Places Sport Matters Implementation Group.

2. APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Diarmuid McLean and Brian McLawrence, Department of Education, Patrick Nelson, Irish Football Association, Kevin O'Neill, Disability Sport Northern Ireland and SNI's Vice Chair, Alan Money Penny.

3. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

3.1 The Chair advised that Sport Matters was a 10 year strategy which had received approval by the Executive. This is Government policy which now needs to be delivered but SNI were not in the position to

deliver it alone and need help from strategic partner organisations. Members noted that the Minister had requested that groups were set up to plan and report on the implementation of the strategy. Therefore the three Sport Matters Implementation Groups were set up, one for each reporting area – Performance, Participation and Places. A further monitoring group was set up which will be chaired by the Minister and will meet twice a year. Members noted that there were 26 targets within the strategy and of these six relate to the Places SMIG.

- 3.2 Members noted that the purpose of this group was to record what has been achieved to date, plan how the various sectors can contribute to the targets, put actions plans in place relevant to the targets and to report on progress.
- 3.3 The Chair advised that SNI had received their draft budgets for the next four year period and there was a 7% cut in resource from the 2010-11 baseline. There was a reduction in the capital budget of over 50%; however there was a capital allocation of £110m for regional stadia. The Chair stated that there would be difficult financial times over the next four years in the public sector; however by only receiving a 7% cut in revenue budgets this gave a strong message that the Executive value sport.
- 3.4 Members agreed that the single biggest issue facing the Places SMIG was resources. In addition, we need to get the sign up and ownership of various government departments as part of the monitoring group, as each of these departments are facing budget cuts. DSD advised that their Minister had indicated that they would receive a budget of £20m revenue per year for Neighbourhood Renewal. In recent years this budget had made a significant contribution to supporting sports activities and facilities. Where needs were identified in Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans and subject to appraisal there was the potential for further contribution. The capital position was as yet unclear.
- 3.5 The Chair advised that Paul Scott, SNI had been due to give a presentation on pre-games training and holding camps to the Places Committee meeting but due to time constraints this had not been possible. With the agreement of members this presentation was heard by the Places SMIG meeting. Slides are attached for information.

P Faithfull left the meeting at 3.00pm.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.1 Members noted that there have been a few new members added to the Group since the meeting in October and therefore the terms of reference have been updated.

- 4.2 Members noted that the ISC were represented on the Participation and Performance SMIGs but not on the Places SMIG and stated that input from the ISC in terms of their knowledge of stadia and other capital projects might be useful. It was agreed that SNI would consider this suggestion. SNI
- 4.3 Members noted that it had been agreed that all organisations involved should select a single nominated deputy to attend the meetings should the nominated representative be unavailable to attend future meetings. SNI requested that the names of the single nominated deputy be forwarded to jamieuprichard@sportni.net. Members
- 4.4 Members agreed to hold a minimum of two meetings per year. Members had already been advised of these dates.
5. **'PARTICIPATION FOCUS': RESEARCH UPDATE**
- 5.1 Members received a presentation from Stephen McIlveen of the key findings from Bridging the Gap focusing on the sports facility provision in Northern Ireland.
- 5.2 Members noted the information available on SNI's Active Places NI website and the information which can be accessed. CAAN advised that they had a database of 26 outdoor sports which included information on facilities, accessibility etc, however this was not in a format which could be added to SNI's website. CAAN's database included an adventure sport category but this was not as detailed as SNI's website. The Chair stated that it might be useful to reference each other's websites or put links to each on both websites. Members queried whether it was possible to maximise the use of facilities in boarder areas and CAAN advised that they hold meetings with bodies at boarder areas but unfortunately budgets were not available to develop anything further. Members queried if the south are also experiencing issues with their budgets and suggested cross border co-operation when planning or delivering facilities in border areas. SNI/CAAN
- 5.3 Members agreed that the Active Places website needs to be promoted further. Members suggested that although this provided a signpost to clubs there could be further work done to develop this in conjunction with Clubmark to provide the public accessing the website with the confidence that the facilities were of a good quality. SNI
- 5.4 Members discussed the fact that education is seen as the largest providers of sports facilities but there is currently limited access to these facilities. The Bridging the Gap research identified that there was a shortfall in sports halls, however if school sports facilities were opened up this could be reduced. Members agreed that work needed to be done to build relationships with schools and this should focus on: SNI/DE

- Building a willingness for community access;
- Workable legal agreements;
- Partnership working with community groups and district councils;
- Innovative solutions to caretaking, staffing and insurance issues;
- Facility design to accommodate community use;
- Strategic planning to service existing need; and
- Better use of a range of funding sources.

In response to a query raised by B McCargo regarding the use of GAA facilities following his attendance at recent facility openings the GAA advised that their facilities were open to all members of the public and that a range of sports and community activities take place regularly on GAA property. Stephen McGeehan gave examples of how GAA clubs in particular are very innovative and are constantly reviewing how their facilities can be used by the local community

It was agreed that during these times we all needed to look at ways we could work in partnership, including shared use of facilities. DARD advised that this year they had seen a 30-40% drop off in students studying sports turf related subjects and although it was hoped that this was a one off it was quite significant.

5.5 Members queried whether the strategy was still achievable in terms of the budget cuts imposed since the document was written. The Chair advised that this was a much wider issue than could be dealt with in this group.

6. & **SPORT MATTERS PROGRESS REPORT (1 APR 09-30 SEP 10) &**

7. **SPORT MATTERS: ACTION PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

6.1 Agenda items 6) and 7) were discussed together. Members noted that the Minister has requested updates on work undertaken to date to be presented at the next monitoring group meeting at the end of March. Members noted the draft document which members had input into, however some of the new members have not contributed to this yet. SNI advised that they would follow up on this.

SNI/New members

6.2 Members heard that the proposal was to use the template to allow each organisation to demonstrate what they are planning to do to help achieve the targets. This will then be produced into an action plan which will be presented to the Minister's Group. SNI requested that the completed planning templates should be returned by 3 March to allow SNI to compile the overall document. SNI advised that if any organisation wished staff to visit their organisation to discuss this in further detail they were happy to do this.

- 6.3 Members discussed the possibility of having a further brainstorming session to discuss multi use of facilities on school estates. It was agreed that this less formal session would be arranged in February and members would be advised of the details. Members were advised that they were more than welcome to bring another person from their organisation to this brainstorming session.
- 6.4 Members heard that a webpage had been set up for the SMIGs which will include progress reports and templates; members would be emailed once new information has been added. www.sportni.net

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 8.1 There was no further business to discuss.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 9.1 Members noted the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 20 September 2011 at 2.30pm in the House of Sport.
- 9.2 The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____