

## Revised Preferred Options and Draft Policies Consultation - February 2012

### Chapter 12: Leisure, Recreation and Culture

There were 17 respondents to this Chapter, making a total of 26 comments. These are summarised below:-

#### **Key Consultee Groups**

*No responses received.*

#### **National and Local Organisations**

- Pleased that the Council recognises its role in supporting and delivering new and improved facilities for Leisure, Recreation and Culture and has policies which protect existing facilities and that it will secure and fund provision of new facilities where demand increases through new housing developments. However, the current Cultural Strategy does not give enough weight to arts and culture as it deals primarily with sport and recreation. (Farnham Theatre Association)
- Welcome the recognition of the enhanced recreational, cultural and environmental value of the Canal as restoration progresses, and look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with WBC and other partners on the delivery of the Trust's restoration strategy. (The Wey & Arun Canal Trust)
- Farnham Maltings' role in developing theatre across the south east does little for theatre in the Borough. This is because there is no dedicated theatre space. Facilities mentioned cannot be used during term time and are not accessible as located in the countryside. Should provide the Borough with at least one dedicated theatre and music performance venue, preferably in a town centre with adequate parking, rail and road connections, within a large catchment area. (Farnham Theatre Association)
- Chapter needs updating to reflect the NPPF requirements for the provision of cultural facilities (Farnham Theatre Association)
- Badshot Lea football and cricket teams have expanded and outgrown the existing facilities, and often need to hire pitches away from the village (Farnborough and Godalming) if a new sports ground and complex was provided; land could be available for housing. (Badshot Lea Cricket Club)
- PPG17 study does not constitute a robust assessment of need. There is a risk that the policies contained in the Core Strategy may be found to be unsound as they are not fully justified. Strongly urge Waverley Borough Council to complete a Playing Pitch Strategy before the production of further drafts of the Core Strategy. Supports that new leisure, recreation and cultural facilities will be provided and that existing facilities will be safeguarded from development, object evidence having to be presented that either the existing use is no longer required or viable. Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) is a

very sophisticated planning tool which helps to estimate the level of demand for key community sports facilities that is created by a given population. (Sport England)

- The policy should be more enthusiastic in its guidance against loss of facilities. The policy should reflect what is in the text. Would like to see intention to seek to identify opportunities to enhance and improve community and cultural facilities whether through the provision of co-located or new facilities. (The Theatres Trust)
- Whilst the proposed policy document appears to acknowledge the Forum's response to the previous preferred options consultation, the wording of the proposed policies does not ensure the provision of public access land and ROWs. Suggest amendments to the wording of the policy (Surrey Countryside Access Forum)

### **Developers/ Agents**

- Policy CS14 is badly structured, unwieldy and contains statements that are unnecessary in the policy itself and should be relegated to the supporting text. It also fails to provide sufficient encouragement for the provision of new leisure, recreation and cultural facilities in response to the demand for such facilities by local communities. Propose alternative wording. (Lamron Estates)

### **Town and Parish Councils**

- Contribution made by the many village and church halls should be acknowledged - as should the need to ensure that they are adequately maintained. (Wonersh PC)
- Shortage of sports pitches in Farnham .WBC must ensure provision of more. (Farnham TC)
- Reference is made to the beauty of Farnham Park. The alterations to the park as a result of it being designated as SANG have led to the deterioration to the entrances to Farnham Park. It must remain a semi-wild environment. (Farnham TC)
- Note the aspiration to maintain the "high quality" of the wider natural environment but are concerned as to how this will be achieved when funding is being withdrawn (cf SCC reduced maintenance of footpaths, bridleways etc.). (Wonersh PC)

### **Individuals**

- Loss of the Redgrave theatre, need for new theatre in Farnham and not a multi - screen cinema, as technology means that people can/ will download films instead of going to see them. Performing arts imply human participation; technology has less of an impact.

- Should be recognition of desire amongst local residents to see development of new community theatre facility.
- Greater recognition should be given to unique nature of Farnham Park as a valuable leisure and recreational facility for residents of Farnham and beyond.
- Strongly support the need for formal and informal leisure facilities especially sustainably near to new developments.
- Improvements to the surfacing of the Downs Link should be completed throughout its length through the Borough
- Less should be spent on leisure, recreation, more on the clearing of invasive woodland e.g. Cranleigh, Run, Rushett Commons.
- Agree with feedback. Encouraging quiet enjoyment of the countryside is an important inclusion.
- Need to make sure it is not just good intentions but can be made to happen (by e.g. using the Waverley Infrastructure Delivery Plan). Note a crucial reference to the planned Open Space, Leisure and Recreation Study 2012 which is an essential part of matching the intentions of NPPF para 73 for specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.
- Waverley should not waste any legacy potential of the Olympic Games. For those wanting to use them, most sports should be provided for.