

Parks Report: RLA 26 November 2015

- Swanscombe Park:

The Parks staff cleaned the war memorial and planted the memorial beds for Remembrance Sunday (8 November). A number of poppy wreaths were laid at the memorial.

End of season reparation works on the Bowls Green had to be scaled down due to staffing issues. We hope to have the chance to complete these works in the early spring, weather permitting.

The flower beds have been planted with winter bedding.

Hedge cutting is being undertaken. Leaf clearing is ongoing.

Any necessary refurbishment of play equipment, including any highlighted in the Annual Play Area Inspections, will be undertaken during the winter months.

- Manor Park:

All hedge cutting has been completed. Leaf clearing is largely done now.

Contractors have finished repairs to an area of the St Peter & St Paul's church wall damaged by ASB.

Topping up of soil and seed and painting of play equipment are due to take place.

- Broomfield:

The football season is in full swing and the feedback from the clubs is that the pitches are playing well.

Contractors are due to replace the hard surfacing in the play area.

Leaf clearing is ongoing. Some tree and shrub pruning has been undertaken with the rest, including Neptune Park, to be completed during winter.

Work arising from the tree survey is due to take place.

Painting of play equipment is planned over the coming months.

The replacement/repair of the basketball hoop back panel is scheduled to be done during the winter as is the installation of the new permanent goal post.

- Knockhall:

Both of the football pitches are playing well and so far none of the waterlogging issues encountered two years ago have re-occurred.

We are still clearing the last of the leaves.

Tree work identified in the tree survey will take place soon.

Any necessary refurbishment of play equipment, including any highlighted in the Annual Play Area Inspections, will be undertaken during the winter months.

We have had issues with cars parked across the access to Knockhall Park making it impossible for staff to get our vehicles onto the field. Staff have taken pictures of the cars obstructing the entrance and have put up notices asking for the entrance to be kept clear.

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- Leisure Centre:

Tree work, from the tree survey, in the area around the Leisure Centre and the car park has been completed.

- Valley View:

The leaves have all been cleared. Tree work has now been done.

Any necessary refurbishment of play equipment, including any highlighted in the Annual Play Area Inspections, will be undertaken during the winter months.

- Saxon Court:

The agreed tree work has been done. Shrub pruning will be underway shortly.

Any necessary refurbishment of play equipment, including any highlighted in the Annual Play Area Inspections, will be undertaken during the winter months.

- Staff:

We are pleased to welcome the new Groundsman / Gardener who started with us on 16 November meaning the Parks Department is now fully staffed.

- Equipment:

Both of the vans have had a full service.

As per minute 222/15-16, the new rotary mower has been purchased and the x2 cylinder mowers will be purchased in good time for the new season.

ACTIVITY SCALE OF CHARGES 2016

	2014	Current 2015	Proposed 2016	Increase	
	£	£		£	%
Non Membership					
Junior/60+	1.20	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00%
Adult	1.70	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00%
Sports Hall					
Badminton					
Junior/60+	6.00	6.50	6.60	0.10	1.54%
Adult	7.30	8.00	8.20	0.20	2.50%
Table Tennis					
Junior/60+	3.50	4.00	4.20	0.20	5.00%
Adult	4.70	5.00	5.20	0.20	4.00%
5-a-side Soccer etc	37.50	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00%
Health and Fitness					
Induction - Adult/60+	22.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00%
Induction - Junior	12.00	13.00	15.00	2.00	15.38%
Junior/60+ Gym (casual use)	4.80	5.00	5.50	0.50	10.00%
Adult Gym (casual use)	6.20	6.50	7.00	0.50	7.69%
Aerobic Classes	6.00	6.50	7.00	0.50	7.69%
Monthly Direct Debit					
Single	40.95	41.95	43.25	1.30	3.10%
Joint (deleted but honouring existing)	72.95	75.95	80.00	4.05	5.33%
Saver (Concessionary)	29.95	29.95	17.95	-12.00	-40.07%
Saver+ (50+) delete but honour existing	33.95	34.95	37.00	2.05	5.87%
Saver+ (60+) new category		34.95	35.00	0.05	0.14%
Teen (16 - 17 yrs)	22.95	22.95	22.95	0.00	0.00%
Fit Kid (12 - 15 yrs)	17.95	17.95	17.95	0.00	0.00%
Corporate	35.95	35.95	39.00	3.05	8.48%
Student	32.95	32.95	32.95	0.00	0.00%
Phase 4 Scheme	30.95	30.95	31.50	0.55	1.78%
12 Month Contract - Single		38.50	39.00	0.50	1.30%
12 Month Contract - 60+		32.00	32.00	0.00	0.00%
Coaching					
50+ Clubs/Ladies Only	3.00	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00%
Tumble Tots	2.60	3.00	3.10	0.10	3.33%

Dry Coaching Sessions	3.90	4.30	4.50	0.20	4.65%
Acorn Club	19.00	20.00	21.00	1.00	5.00%
Half Day Acorn Club	9.50	10.00	10.50	0.50	5.00%
Saturday Bizz Kids	5.20	5.20	5.50	0.30	5.77%
Creche	1.80	2.20	2.50	0.30	13.64%
Smarty Party	10.00	10.00	11.00	1.00	10.00%
Centre Membership					
Adult	40.00	40.00	45.00	5.00	12.50%
Junior	25.00	25.00	27.50	2.50	10.00%
60+	25.00	25.00	27.50	2.50	10.00%
Family - 2 adults and up to 2 children	46.00	50.00	60.00	10.00	20.00%
One Parent Family up to 4 children (deleted)		50.00			
Additional Child			15.00		
Local Residents - Adult	14.00	15.00	16.00	1.00	6.67%
Local Residents - Junior/60+	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	9.09%
Social Functions					
Main Hall (per hr)	65.00	65.00	70.00	5.00	7.69%
Disability/Concessionary (Low Income)					
Gym	4.80	4.70	4.70	0.00	0.00%
Aerobic	4.70	4.70	4.70	0.00	0.00%
Badminton	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00%
Table Tennis	3.50	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00%

GRAVESHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE LIMITED MANAGEMENT BOARD	DATE: 05.11.15
TITLE: SCALE OF CHARGES FOR 2016	ITEM NO.
REPORTING OFFICER: MANAGING DIRECTOR	

INTRODUCTION

Gravesham Community Leisure Limited's (GCLL's) Pricing Policy refers to charges being reviewed prior to January each year and for any variations to be implemented as from 1st January. Any amendments need to be agreed by Gravesham Borough Council/Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council and also need to be advertised to the general public prior to 1st January, hence the need to seek agreement from GCLL Members in advance of the next Management Board meeting on 23rd November.

The Financial Plan for 2016 is currently being prepared on the basis of the proposed Scale of Charges being agreed. The current version of the Financial Plan for 2016 (noting this may change) shows a projected surplus of £47,337, compared to the projected surplus for 2015 of £78,251 but does include GCLL's responsibility to implement the Living Wage from April 2016.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR 2016

Attached at Appendix A are the proposed 'core' activity charges for 2016 which are compared with the current 2015 charges for Cascades, Cygnet and Swanscombe Leisure Centres. The appendix also details the percentage increases.

The revised charges have been compared with other similar local providers and GCLL continues to be price-competitive, which is extremely important in the leisure market.

Examples of competitor prices are also included at Appendix A.

AMMENDMENTS

Members will note that the categories of Adult and Under 8 swimming charges have been deleted from the 2016 scale of charges as this trial was unsuccessful and not financially beneficial to GCLL.

It is proposed to continue with a cheaper swimming rate for the 60+ group but an increase of 20 pence has been applied.

Following discussions with Gravesend and Northfleet Swimming Club, it is proposed to raise the hourly charge for the hire of the Cygnet pool hall to £100 and this will be fixed for a five-year period to assist with the Club's budgeting process.

Table Tennis charges have been increased to fall more in line with the charges for a squash court noting that this activity takes place in a squash court.

There has been a slightly higher than average increase relating to Outline Health and Fitness and in particular the casual charge for non-members using these facilities. As part of the 2016 marketing strategy this value-for-money unique selling point will be utilised to encourage more casual users to become full Outline members as this will be financially beneficial.

The Phase 4 (casual use) has been brought into line with the Junior/60+ Gym (casual use) price.

When considering the Health and Fitness monthly direct debit charges, a trial of offering Single and 60+ categories a cheaper rate, but on a 12-month contract basis, has been very well received and is, therefore, included within the Scale of Charges for 2016 at £39.00 and £32.00 per month respectively as opposed to the £43.25 and £35.00 per month for rolling monthly contract memberships. The 12-month contract membership category is also anticipated to further reduce the attrition rate GCLL is currently experiencing.

Members will note that the monthly direct debit for the Saver (Concessionary) category (i.e. those on income benefits), has been significantly reduced so that GCLL will be able to seriously target those on low incomes by offering an affordable fitness option.

The Corporate membership category has been increased to £39.00 per month but still remains an excellent offer to local businesses/organisations when compared against the Single membership category of £43.25 per month. It is also noted that no other provider caters for this category.

It is proposed to introduce a new and easy payment scheme for Swimming Lessons and for it to be on a direct debit basis of £23.25 per month. This scheme will provide each child with FREE access for general bathing at all times and also Active Leisure membership. It is anticipated that the Swimming Academy will increase its numbers by 400 lessons per week as a direct outcome of this easy-payment scheme being introduced.

The difference between the Bizz Kids (Saturday) and Bizz Kids (Holiday) charge is the duration of the respective sessions – the Saturday duration is shorter than the Holiday scheme. The Bizz Kids (Holiday) Scheme, which only operates at Cygnet Leisure Centre, is the equivalent of the Acorn Club (half-day) but it was considered to be too much of an increase in price to achieve parity at this time, hence it only being increased to £8.00.

The Creche increase is still considered to be very reasonable for child care provision and is also another incentive for parents to become members as it is included within the direct debit membership packages.

Disability and Concessionary prices have remained at their current levels to encourage increased usage.

If Members have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Managing Director.

DECISIONS

It is **recommended** that the revised Scale of Charges for 2016, attached at Appendix A, be approved for implementation from 1st January 2016, subject to any comments from Gravesham Borough Council, Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council and/or any adverse customer reaction.

Good afternoon Graham,

We are currently moving forwards with a project to help get tenants ready for the introduction of Universal Credit in Dartford.

It's called HERO and I am looking for a base they could see customers from in the Swanscombe area.

I can explain more about the project if you wish but have attached a flyer giving some details in the meantime as to how it has operated in Sevenoaks.

I was wondering if there was any likelihood of a room being made available within the Town Council offices or if there is another venue locally that might be suitable.

The project is currently being set up so the room is not needed immediately, it will last for 12 months initially.

Thanks for your help,

David

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High Quality, Effective Homelessness Prevention Has Never Been So Important

Investment in homelessness prevention is a high strategic priority for Local Authorities the cost effectiveness of which for the public purse is well documented.*

In addition to saving money, homelessness prevention provides added value that cannot be measured in monetary terms, for example, the benefits achieved by reducing the risk of social exclusion or from improving educational outcomes. Plus you also cannot put a price on sleeping in a doorway, being afraid 24 hours a day or losing your dignity.

The HERO Project was launched in response to the Central Government challenge to develop a holistic approach to advice which addressed the root causes of homelessness. We have created HERO Project Workers who are trained to provide personalised advice which promotes independence, choice and opportunity on a range of issues which include: education, getting into work, housing, welfare benefits, debt and fuel poverty.

Since June 2009, HERO has seen over 1000 people, all of which have received advice to prevent them from becoming homeless. We have helped 418 vulnerable people to become work ready (includes retraining, education and volunteering), directly supported 57 people into a job or a work related activity and successfully claimed significant amounts of backdated benefit for 359 people.

As well as delivering an in-house service, the Council now delivers HERO for a number of other agencies across Kent, including Kent County Council and West Kent Housing Association.

You could commission **HERO** too!

**To find out more contact Jane Ellis on 01732 227000
or e-mail jane.ellis@sevenoaks.gov.uk.**

*Evaluating the Prevention of Homelessness, 2007, Pawson et al.

SO EASY TO TALK TO,
VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE
AND REALLY HELPFUL

Benefits Advice

VERY CLEAR
ADVICE

Housing Advice

SO HELPFUL, WITHOUT THIS
HELP WE WOULD'VE BEEN IN
REAL TROUBLE

Benefits Advice

HELPFUL, CARING
AND UNDERSTANDING

Benefits Advice

THE KNOWLEDGE
I'VE GAINED HAS GIVEN
ME CONFIDENCE

Back to Work

THANKS FOR HELPING ME CLAIM BACK
MY BENEFIT, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT
WITHOUT YOU!

Benefits Advice

VERY KIND AND
APPROACHABLE

Housing Advice

ABSOLUTELY
BRILLIANT!

Volunteering

VERY PLEASED, GREAT TO
HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO.

Retraining

A BIG THANK YOU
FROM THE BOTTOM
OF MY HEART

Back to Work

What will YOU say about HERO?

Housing, Energy, Retraining Options

Find out how HERO can help you

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/housing hero@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Tel: 01732 227000

HERO
Project


Sevenoaks
DISTRICT COUNCIL

December 2015				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
		• PTE (6)		
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
			• TC (3)	
21	22	23	24	25
				BANK HOLIDAY
28	29	30	31	
BANK HOLIDAY				

January 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 BANK HOLIDAY
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14 • FGP (4) + Special TC	15
18	19	20 • PTE (7)	21	22
25	26	27	28	29