

The Future of Sports, Leisure and Wellbeing in North Yorkshire
Strategic Leisure Review Stakeholder Session
Wednesday 16th August 2023

Introduction:

Two webinar sessions were completed on Wednesday 16th August 2023 from 12pm-1pm and from 6pm-7pm in order to give local sports clubs and community organisations an opportunity to have their say on the future of North Yorkshire Sport, Leisure and Well-being Services.

The presentation slides related to the discussion can be found here - [Strategic leisure review | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Organisations attending the sessions:

Colburn Leisure Centre, Skipton Juniors and Sandilands, NY Sport, Ripon Pool Action Group, S'boro & District Mencap, S'boro Disabled Swim Group, Resident - Filey, City of Hull Swim Club, North Yorkshire Youth (West) – youth participation, S'boro Athletic Football Club, Thirsk Hockey Club, Vending Company supplying Brimhams Active, Northallerton TC and Northallerton Parkrun, Scarborough Mates and S'boro & District Canoe Club, Bedale Sports Association, Tadcaster Community Pool, NYC Member of Audit and Scrutiny, Harrogate & District Community Action, Bentham TC, North Cliffe Golf Club, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Bentham Playing Field Association,

Discussions were verbal and also included observations and questions written in the Chat function.

Discussion and Feedback themes, observations and responses:

Delivery Model:

- When we look at alternative delivery models, will we look at the charities who are delivering?
- Keen to look at both LA and non-LA run facilities and identify areas where there are gaps. There isn't a lot of 'new' money but phase 2 of the SLR process will include an Investment Strategy which will look at all facilities and where we can best make financial investments.
- Review will look at how we utilise the financial resources that we have and use them differently to support delivery of the new model.
- Good to see Active Environments included – this is also important to Northallerton TC; keen to provide new and enhanced green / open spaces for people to be active, not just participate directly in sport.
- Plea to NYC to recognise the value of green / open spaces they own and identify how the land they own can be included and could contribute to this agenda.
- How will the outreach model work?
- The general approach is to look at gaps in provision and there could be a variety of ways of delivering this – this may include some direct delivery, or supporting other organisations to deliver. We are also keen to look at the scope for using technology and the potential of digital services for example, virtual classes. One model won't fit all circumstances and locations – need to be flexible with this.

Elite and higher-level athletes:

- There is work to be done around excellence and mental health – talented athletes need to travel out of area. What can we do to help retain them?
- Keen to look at pathways for a range of sports, and as far as possible continue to provide opportunities for local athletes, for example through schemes like the FANS scheme. Although it is recognised that elite athletes are likely to have to travel to specialist training facilities.
- We have great athletes we need to celebrate more.
- One of the main things we can do to support talented athletes is around workforce development and coaching because built facilities will always be a challenge and talented athletes will have to travel.

Planning for future facilities:

- Think the ambition is good. Are there existing Playing Pitch Strategies? How are you bringing these together and are you identifying where there are gaps?
- There are Playing Pitch Strategies for 6 of the 7 areas, and we have a pool of evidence as a base. Keen to ensure that there is a clear locality focus as part of the review.
- Want to make sure supply and demand is taken into account when making decisions and looking at need and demand. Ripon pool have data they'd like to share in relation to a new Learner Pool in Ripon. Swim England figures don't specifically cover under 5's – feel this is a gap.
- Applaud the review, wish to be involved in future and happy to share data.
- As a small market town but with a sizable population, Bentham has good outdoor facilities but limited indoor. The town has a large proportion of under 25's and local volunteers work hard to provide facilities for them but the Playing Field group would be keen to have further support from NYC.
- All useful feedback and agreed that the Leisure Review needs to include indoor and outdoor facilities, as well as look collectively at what is currently available and where there are gaps
- Sandylands is looking to undertake some large projects in the near future to expand provision / facilities and has submitted an SPF application – what is the relationship between the SLR and the SPF(UK Shared Prosperity Fund)?
- SPF has both revenue and capital funds – Prospectus coming out in September.

Volunteers:

- Recognise the value of volunteer groups and volunteering
- No specific mention of volunteering in the slides but clearly volunteers are key part of the "workforce" delivering across the county. Needs to ensure the strategy recognises this?
- Need to create opportunities for volunteers to get involved and trained (particularly coaching) – this will give a huge return on investment.
- Volunteers are in short supply and there is defo not a cupboard full in our area!

School Facilities:

- Great work previously with Craven colleagues. Would like to see greater use of educational facilities but there are barriers eg: quality of provision / facilities (pitches).
- Department for Education are currently doing some work around opening school facilities for community use – early days but there is recognition that schools are a huge asset.

Working Together:

- Pinching good practice and experience from other likeminded organisations is key.
- Personally, Jo and the team are doing a sterling job and we look forward to working with you all.
- How will we include community / locally owned assets.
- Need funding / bid writing support to help small groups access
- Support needed for community owned facilities to help them grow / consolidate
- NY Sport can help provide some of this support to sports clubs and organisations.
- Thank you for the opportunity to be involved
- How are you linking into the Outdoor Partnership?
- A: North Yorkshire Sport are working closely with Outdoor Partnership – see them as a good additional or complimentary resource, not overlapping or duplicating.
- Parkrun in Northallerton has been well supported by the old Hambleton DC team – there are lots of other Parkruns in NY who would also be keen to be involved moving forwards. Parkrun has also recently launched Park Walk to encourage walking as well as running. It is also worth noting that some volunteers at Parkrun have never run it, they just like being part of the community.
- Ensure the conversation isn't about funding and seeking funding – it's more about our vision for our place, what's our strategy. Funding might be an outcome at the end of this change in leisure, but not the prime focus. We need to work all work together for NY communities and not focus on getting funding into individual patches or facilities.
- Would really welcome a (continued) co-production approach to this piece of work. For a potential change in approach to public leisure (in its broadest sense) we have to ensure people feel involved and genuine collaboration, for the new approach to be successful to achieve the outcomes shared in this session'.

- Can NYC get public health, planning, green spaces, NHS partners etc around the table. Their involvement and co-ownership is vital to successfully 'pivoting' leisure. They may be involved absolutely, but they really need to be. This was agreed and it was noted that public health are co-leading the review work and some really productive conversations have already been held with a range of partners including health and social care, transport etc.
- Change will take time but the Public Health team area involved in the process and co-leading. Keen to work across the Council to influence policy to address health inequalities, and with NHS colleagues to find solutions to prevent ill health.

Accessibility and Affordability:

- Love the idea of a celebration of disability sport in North Yorkshire and @northyorkshiresport would be keen to help do that.
- Charities often have own challenges but they enable people with disabilities to engage. There has been good success in S'boro because there are facilities to be included into.
- Would like the opportunity to share best practice and expertise around access and inclusive sport. First time events taking place in S'boro next year.
- S'boro Disabled Swim Group keen to share their expertise to help increase aspirations about what could be across the country. More people are needed to help people with disabilities engage in sport.
- Please to be given the opportunity to have voice heard and would like to have more opportunities for more people.
- Many people with disabilities are still emerging from the impacts of Covid – it has had a huge effect on mental health.
- Mental health and financial pressures on individuals impact their ability / options to participate
- Can see it is a massive task and delighted about the focus on mental health – there is a huge need in our county.
- SEND / Children with Additional Needs need local, bespoke service provision
- Transport links are often poor and a limiting factor
- How we target the support to those who can't afford it effectively so that those who can't afford to access facilities are supported and those who can afford to pay do so. Which leads back to support in funding to get everyone active and thinking outside of the box.
- Opportunities to access leisure / wellbeing need to be made affordable and be accessible
- Affordability is key.... as disposable income is quite simply not there for people to spend.... leads to poor mental and physical health.... Cost to run facilities has increased tenfold to run and the end user does not realise this or cannot afford it....
- Feedback from young people is that North Yorkshire doesn't have what they are looking for which is a real shame travelling to York, Leeds Darlington, Teesside for skateparks, bowling, bike tracks etc as well as profession/competitive sports young people travel where they can for fun and leisure.
- Inequal access - Lots of gaps on the map – how do we get everyone up to the same level.
- Bentham is an isolated community with few opportunities and poor travel links – lots of young people in particular are reliant on car travel and being taken to places. Playing Field Committee want to develop more activities / facilities but are struggling with buildings and are looking for some financial support.
- Concern that we may lose focus on things we are good at / do well in our quest to try and improve areas that are struggling. We need to gather momentum and continue to support what we've got. Will there also be conversations with NGB's to help facilitate this?
- NGB's have been and will be engaged, and Sport England are also already engaged. The review process is definitely to look at what we have that's good.