

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7 FEBRUARY 2001

### BELLSBANK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

#### Report by Director of Community Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 In line with Following the Public Pound guidance the purpose of the report is to update members of progress being made at Bellsbank Adventure Playground.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Services Committee of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2000 approved a grant of £22,951.00 to Bellsbank Adventure Playground towards annual running costs including wages, training, play materials and refurbishment costs.
- 2.2 Bellsbank Adventure Playground is supported by other external funders including the National Lotteries Charities Board and the New Opportunity Fund. The NLCB has recently confirmed a revenue funding grant for the next three years to support the groups work.
- 2.3 Bellsbank Adventure Playground has developed a good working relationship with the Council's Leisure Services Section.
- 2.4 The Project's aim is;
- To provide a creative youth centred environment
  - To provide safe stimulating play opportunities for children and young people
  - To involve young people in programming and running of groups
  - To develop the skills of young people and volunteers
- 2.5 In the financial year 2000/2001, Bellsbank Adventure Playground has continued to provide a low cost service for young people in the Bellsbank, Dalmellington and Patna area. Activities have include new and traditional games, dance and drama, computers, a variety of arts and crafts and a wide range of outdoor play opportunities. With extensive opening hours, the project is enthusiastically supported in the local communities. Open seven days a week hours are;
- Before school care - 7.00am- 8.45am Monday – Friday  
After school care - 3.00pm-5.30pm Monday- Friday  
Weekend care- 12.00-4.00pm  
Boys group- 6.00pm- 8.00pm Monday  
Girls Group- 6.00pm-8.00pm Wednesday  
Drop In- 6.00pm-8.00pm Thursday and Sunday

Holiday Play schemes – Easter, summer and October.

2.6 The Project has recently developed an all weather floodlight multi- sport area for the use of the whole community which is proving to be a popular new facility. The development of this facility demonstrates how the Project is continually increasing the number and range of activities to meet the ever-increasing demand for provision.

2.7 As well as continuing with the existing programmes, objectives for 2001- 2002 include;

- The development of an internet café area which will extend existing hours from 4 nights to 6 nights per week)
- To provide a variety of multi sports activities for children, young people and local community which in turn will encourage usage of the multi sport area
- Establish further working links with other agencies.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Whilst there are no further financial implications for 2000 – 2001, it is anticipated that a application for financial assistance will be submitted by Bellsbank Adventure Playground for 2001-2002 for consideration at a future Community Services Committee.

### **4. LEGAL AUTHORITY / IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil

### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Project supports the Council's Social Inclusion and Leisure Development Priorities.

### **6. CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 The Bellsbank Adventure Playground Project fills an important gap in local provision. The Project provides a high quality service for the young people in the Doon Valley area. The Project is continuously looking at ways in developing the service further and the East Ayrshire Council's grant for 2000-2001 has been effectively utilised.

### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

WS/KK/ML  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2000

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report to Community Services Committee 26<sup>th</sup> April 2000 – Review of the Grants to Voluntary Organisation Scheme.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers should contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services on ext 6264.

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**AGENDA**