



**sporta**  
social enterprises within culture & leisure



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Mr Tony Hurley  
Leisure Commissioning Manager  
Dorset Councils Partnership  
South Walks House,  
South Walks Road,  
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DT1 1UZ

14 July 2017

Dear Tony

Re: Funding

Further to our recent meeting with Cllr Wheller which was preceded by an invitation by WPBC to identify potential enhancements to the leisure centre which would benefit from a distribution of local authority funds I am happy to report as follows.

As part of our mission to provide the best and most versatile community facilities possible given the nature of the centre and the needs of the community we have had a long term goal to make better use of our main hall area. Initial discussions have taken place to ascertain likely costs and to gauge community support for the project.

As a result the project would divide our immense main hall into 3 useable areas with no reduction in current provision. By introducing rebound boards we will then be able to allow activities such as short mat bowls, table tennis and martial arts to be scheduled whilst the remainder of the hall is being used for football, basketball or cricket. Presently when the latter sports are taking place no other activity can take place and the first three sports are certainly gaining in popularity. Our only reason for not having started this initiative over the course of time is the capital requirement to do so.

We are very fortunate in not only having the support of customers to provide more options but also the backing of DCC with particular regard to their Living and Learning programme. DCC have been considering their options over the last year as part of their consolidation of their asset base.



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At a meeting only this week they presented their research findings from the community consultation and concluded that:

- 1) There was a need for flexible multi use space
- 2) The provision needed to be future proof and sustainable
- 3) There should be a link to community buildings for greater cross benefit
- 4) There should be an integrated model that serves the whole of the local area

Osprey Leisure Centre was specifically named and identified as the ideal site to act as a satellite to the other hub in Easton. It can be seen that the suggested project to develop the main hall fits with points 1-3 and forms part of the model emanating from their consultation.

The project costs at Osprey to alter the hall will be circa £65,000 which will include the rebound boards, sanding, relining, netting, lighting etc. In due course this addition to the centre will provide a return on the investment over the longer term which due to the nature of the charity will be reinvested into the operation for the future benefit of the community at large. With possible DCC funding, the scheme could develop further to incorporate changes to other areas of the centre making the entire project even more popular and sustainable.

Having been asked for thoughts the Trust would be very grateful for this project to be considered for funding support at the appropriate meeting of WPBC as capital to provide these much needed improvements will make such a difference to this community asset.

If you have any questions relating to the above prior to preparing your report for the meeting please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Williams  
General Manager and Board Member