

THE VOLUNTEERING LEGACY OF 2012 IN AYLESBURY VALE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight to Members a number of the Volunteering Initiatives that were supported in Aylesbury Vale in the delivery of the London 2012 Games, and to consider ways in which they could be further supported by this authority to help deliver a lasting legacy from the Games for the Vale.

2 Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Review the content of this report and welcome presentations on the opportunities for the further development of community Volunteering by the Buckinghamshire 2012 Manager supported by representatives from Community Impact Bucks, Bucks Sport and Aylesbury Youth for Christ ;
- 2.2 Consider ways in which this authority could further support these and other London 2012 Inspired Volunteering Opportunities to deliver a lasting legacy for volunteering within the Vale.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 The London 2012 Games changed the perception of volunteering in Great Britain forever. It is widely agreed that the London 2012 Games Makers and the Ambassadors working in and around the London 2012 venues were the stars of the Games. National schemes such as the Sport England Sport Makers Scheme and the LOCOG Local Leaders Programme helped to take the impact of the Games across the country whilst here in the Vale the successful torch relay events and spectacular flame festival celebrations could not have been delivered without the willing assistance of an army of almost 500 community volunteers.
- 3.2 As part of the Legacy Programme for the Games here in Buckinghamshire, and ratified by Cabinet at its November meeting, it has been agreed that maintaining the momentum of volunteering should be one of the 6 priorities of a post games legacy for both this Council and the Buckinghamshire 2012 Partnership. We want to build upon this experience to celebrate the work of volunteers in our community, better connect agencies supporting volunteers and instil the drive from the Games to deliver new, bigger and better community initiatives.
- 3.3 As part of this programme the Buckinghamshire 2012 Manager has been working with Community Impact Bucks, the umbrella body supporting the Volunteer network across the County, to help develop a database of people who supported the London 2012 Games in a voluntary capacity and help target local volunteering opportunities to help maintain their involvement and enthusiasm. Listed below are a summary of three of these volunteering programmes that were instrumental in the success of the London 2012 Games and which are currently being promoted as opportunities for continued involvement:-

4 Sports Makers

- 4.1 As the London 2012 Games Makers proved, in 2012 anyone could become a sporting hero. That ethos was taken around the country as part of the Sports Makers programme, the national sports volunteering scheme supported by Sport England as part of its Places People Play Legacy Programme. In Buckinghamshire, the scheme is being delivered by Bucks Sport who hosted a series of conventions earlier this year where almost 900 people signed up to be local sports makers and pledged to commit a minimum of 10 hours of volunteering to deliver new sporting opportunities within their communities.
- 4.2 The first of these conventions was held at Stoke Mandeville in May where the Sports Minister Hugh Robertson helped launch the scheme. As we near the end of the year, it is clear that this first batch of Sports Makers have far exceeded this initial commitment and are making a real difference to sporting opportunities at a local level. For 2013 we want to set new challenges for these Sport Makers to help further develop local Reactivate and Workplace Challenges and to extend the Community Games scheme, a new resource that can greatly enhance village fetes and community events.

5 Aylesbury Youth for Christ / Churches Together

- 5.1 The Aylesbury Youth for Christ and Churches Together team have been active in the Vale for a number of years working alongside this Council developing a programme of volunteer youth clubs and large scale community events such as the Parklife event in Vale Park, Aylesbury.
- 5.2 In 2012 the team extended their programme to deliver a major public event at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on the evening of the Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony. Over 2500 people enjoyed this free event whilst many hundreds of young people enjoyed a drop in café and digital games experience at Aylesbury College that ran for the duration of the Olympic Games. This experience is set to continue throughout 2013 following the successful award of a Lloyds TSB Legacy Funding grant which will enable the digital café to continue its stay at Aylesbury College.

6 Volunteering Opportunities for People with Disabilities

- 6.1 It is only fitting that in the area that is home to Stoke Mandeville, the Birthplace of the Paralympic Games, that special emphasis is placed on providing volunteering opportunities for people with disabilities. BuDS the Buckinghamshire Disability Service were core supporters of the torch relay and flame festival events, staffed by volunteers they provided invaluable advice to ensure that the Olympic and Paralympic flame experience could be enjoyed by people with disabilities in both Aylesbury and Buckingham town centres.
- 6.2 This involvement is not, however, an isolated local example of the volunteering impact of volunteering by people with disabilities. Community Impact Bucks, following support from the Community Chest have been able to support individuals with a range of disabilities to provide regular volunteering opportunities as part of its Opportunities for All Programme. The scheme was set up to provide help and assistance to people who would find it difficult to volunteer without support. The project works closely with individuals to identify roles in a wide range of settings including farm work, gardening, driving,

playgroups, retail or administration, depending on skills and interest. Roles can also be tailored for particular needs. Once a suitable role has been identified, we can organise and accompany volunteers to interviews and initial start date, help fill in application and CRB forms, regularly keep in touch and arrange 6 and 12 month meetings to talk about progress.

- 6.3 Ian Barham, the Buckinghamshire 2012 Manager, will present a summary of the current volunteering opportunities being promoted as part of a Post Games Legacy programme and will be supported by a panel of speakers representing the programmes listed above.

7 Resource implications

- 7.1 No additional resources are being requested to support this programme, the initiatives highlighted within this report are already being supported by national and local funding. The promotion of the schemes will be supported in 2013/14 through the 2012 AVDC Legacy Programme that was considered by Cabinet in November.

8 Response to Key Aims and Objectives

- Volunteering contributes to the outcomes of the corporate plan particularly relating to the aim of developing Thriving Communities.
- A reduction in the factors that diminish the health of individuals and an increase in those that promote it
 - An ongoing reduction in the fear and level of crime
 - Communities in which all the individuals feel able to play a part
 - Council services that meet the needs of the whole community
 - Ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and safe home
 - A skills base which matches the needs of existing and future businesses
 - Public areas that are well maintained and enhanced

Contact Officer
Background Documents

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The Triumph of Bucks – Delivering a Permanent Legacy from
the London 2012 Games
2012 Games Review – Cabinet Report November 2012