

A FANTASTIC DAY FOR COMMUNITY PAVILION PROJECT

It was a great day for the Okehampton Sports and Activity Hub Pavilion project with 3 cheques being presented totalling £250,500 to local charity Okehampton Community Recreation Association- OCRA . Funding of £200,000 from the Okehampton United Charity, £50,000 from one of Sport England's Olympic legacy projects, Inspired Facilities and a cheque for £500 from OCRA Chairman David Carter from his exertions in last year's London Marathon.

Stuart Lord – OCRA Activity Development Manager says “This is a great boost to the project at a time we were worried it might falter and this substantial backing really paves the way for the new Pavilion. The project evolves from the loss of 2 small pavilions as sports facilities have developed over the years, a fast growing town and clubs working together. This Pavilion will support and enhance people's experience, from a wide range of sports, clubs, services, recreational pursuits and events on the fantastic College / Simmons Park site.

Chair of Okehampton United Charity Mr Derek Webber who presented £200,000 said that; ‘the United Charity is pleased to be able to provide financial support to ensure that the pavilion could be built as a single development during this special Olympic year and that it will provide a significant facility for the community of Okehampton’.

Jason Lyons who presented £50,000 from Sport England was particularly impressed with the bid because of the wide range of youth and adult sports the project will benefit

The *Inspired Facilities* fund is part of the £135 million *Places People Play* legacy programme that is bringing the magic of a home Olympic and Paralympic Games into communities across the country. The Okehampton Sports & Activity Pavilion will carry the London 2012 Inspire mark – celebrating the link to this fund and the Games.

LOCOG Chair, Seb Coe, said: “This is a fantastic funding project that will deliver a real legacy from the London 2012 Games. It will provide a whole range of sporting opportunities for young people through improved facilities and will I hope inspire them to take up sport.”

The Pavilion has been shaped through the initial involvement of Peter Woodgate at visioning sessions in 2008 and lately in its design with Okenham Consult. Working with OCRA and local clubs, Tim Capps of Okenham has helped move the project significantly forward to becoming a reality . The building will consist of much needed changing rooms, toilets, storage for clubs, social space, office space for sport and community development projects and spectacular viewing. Local individuals and members of clubs are also getting involved in community build elements of the project. Richard Jones from the Hockey Club said “The Hub Pavilion will provide a

fantastic facility for the local Clubs and so many people will be able to benefit from it”

The catalyst funding for the Pavilion has been from Devon County Council through there Investing in Devon project which was backed by local county councillors Christine Marsh and James McInnes. From OCRA’s bid 4 years ago, there £600,000 also supported the widely used, new All Weather Pitch, which opened in November 2009.

This funding along with contributions from local clubs and Dartmoor LEAF takes the Pavilion fund to £575,000 of the £625,000 project. OCRA Chairman David Carter says “that every £1 collected makes the project more possible”. David is running the London Marathon again this year for OCRA. If you would like to support him and this recreational project or want to find out more contact OCRA at admin@ocrasport.org.uk or on 0183754546