

Unit 8: Leisure and sport in the local community

Pre visit activities

List students' favourite leisure activities on the board, and ask them to say which ones make use of public facilities. Assess to what extent the most popular activities rely on public provision, e.g. by investigating the number of facilities provided by their local council.

Which seem to be the most/least costly to support?
Who should pay for these?

Pupils should then find out how the local authority raises funding for leisure and what spending priorities there are.

Public leisure facilities are not only sports-related but include libraries, museums, open spaces, information centres etc. These in turn require other facilities, e.g. car parks, toilets.

A question of choices: an imaginary challenge

Bursledon Windmill is unable to operate, because the trees surrounding it have now grown so tall that they prevent it from turning on all but 1 day in 15. Fewer visitors are attracted to pay the entrance fee when the sails are idle, but visitors average around 80 per day.

The Windmill is run by Hampshire Museums, who don't own the site. They are a tenant at the Windmill, and the property owners are keen that the Windmill operates regularly for visitors. It is no longer possible to grind flour at the mill, and this reduces income by 20%.

Some people view the Windmill as an important local monument, but others have written to the council complaining that to remove these trees would be an environmental disaster, and noise from the M27 would lower the value of their houses. They also claim that funding such a monument is a waste of money, as it is regularly used by only a dozen or so local people and the land could be used to build new housing. The complainers feel that the money would be better spent on facilities that more people, including the area's many elderly residents, could use.

Should the council;

- a) Remove the problem trees (cost around £10,000).
- b) Pay the extra 20% to keep the mill open (£1,600 per year).
- c) Reduce the times the mill is open to 24 days per year.
- d) Spend the money on other facilities.

Citizenship Key Stage 3 Unit 8: Leisure and sport in the local community

Activity 1

Divide students up into groups of

- local residents who support the Windmill
- local residents who don't support it
- property developers
- people who work in the area and would like to move there too
- researchers working to establish all the pros and cons regarding the site
- staff who work at the Windmill
- Hampshire Museums Service (part of Hampshire County Council)

Hold a class debate

Activity 2

Look at public leisure facilities in your area from the point of view of cost compared with number of users.

Which facilities are the most valued, and by whom?

Does "value" = the number of people who use it regularly? Does someone who visits a local theatre once a month value it more than someone who visits for an annual family treat?

Activity 3

Look at what other museums are in the area. Who do students feel they are for? What do they feel is the purpose of these museums? Do these ideas match the mission statements of the museums (most museums' mission statements are on their websites).

Discuss if ideas like a sense of the past, of where and how a community came from and worked, is important today

Does somewhere like Bursledon Windmill help us learn? Is that learning valuable?

Budget

In 2004/5 Hampshire County Council spent £52 million on recreation, heritage and other services, the same figure they spend on highways, transport and planning. This sum increased by 3 million in the period 2005/6. Compare that to other areas of spending within the county.

2004/05 adjusted		2005/06	Increase
£m		£m	£m
598	Education	627	29
234	Social care	249	15
52	Recreation, heritage and other services	55	3
52	Highways, transport and planning	55	3
36	Waste management	39	3
36	Capital paid for from revenue	38	2
33	Borrowing costs	40	7
16	Future inflation, contingencies and reserves	5	-11
1057	Total	1108	51

www.hants.gov.uk/museums/ for information on the 19 sites Hampshire Museums & Archives Service runs