

Statement of Community Involvement

On 21 January 2010 HBC Officers spoke to traders at Eastoke Corner about the proposed project and received positive feedback. The traders were invited to a Community Board meeting to learn more about the project and discuss their views in a public forum. An on site meeting was also held with two local ward councillors; also the portfolio holders with responsibility for Open Spaces and Cultural Services. This enabled them to discuss the project plans so they could gain a better understanding of how the site will work after the development. All six Hayling Island Councillors have received a copy of a written report about the project that went to the Havant Borough Council (HBC) Cabinet on 9 December 2009.

The adiZone project was presented to an Extraordinary meeting of the Hayling Island Community Board on 25 January 2010 attended by 5 Community Board members, 4 HBC Officers and 13 members of the public. The proposal received a very positive response and the minutes recorded that unanimous support for the project was given by those present. Information about the project has been made more widely available to the public through the Community Board website <http://www.hicb.org.uk/> and articles in the Hayling Islander.

As part of the project will be funded by 'Aiming High funding', it was necessary to consult with children and young people with a disability to find out if the proposed project was what they want. The Aiming High funding is for outdoor play equipment for children and young people with a disability. After consulting in two local special schools and a junior inclusive sports club, it was clear that outdoor sports style equipment, at a site with other amenities, is what they would like. Letters in support of funding bids for the project were received from Hayling Island Community Centre, Hayling Island Community Board, Hayling College, Haylings BEST and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

A large focus of the adiZone project is to engage the community and use the facility as a hub for multiple activities involving a range of people. The adiZone community engagement plan produced for the funding bid highlighted the various groups of people who could be involved with the adiZone and how the facility could be a tool for community engagement, through events and structured activities. In order to maximise usage of an adiZone facility, Havant Borough Council will adopt, implement and evaluate the Community Engagement Plan to ensure the facility is used to its full potential.

Projects like this can bring communities and people together and improve health and wellbeing. For example the adiZone will play a crucial role in the development of HBC's campaign to increase adult physical activity levels, called "Get Active Havant". HBC employs a Physical Activity Officer who will integrate the adiZone into the borough-wide physical activity strategy. The Council proposes to engage local schools, sports clubs, family groups, adults, children and young people and disability groups to make people aware of the facility and get the most use out of it.