

Item 31.8 – Ping Project

Dear Town/Parish Council

Suffolk County Council have asked us to work with them to deliver a 'ping' project in Lowestoft & other parts of Waveney.

"Ping" is designed for locals and tourist to go out, explore and find local outdoor table tennis tables in unexpected places on the streets of towns and cities all over England. Ping! began life as a summer festival and has evolved into an all year round project that is kick-started again each June with the festival that runs throughout the summer. During the festival there are bats and balls available to borrow for free at every table.

Ping! takes ping pong out of the traditional places to play and out into the public realm. It is designed to make it ping pong really visible, accessible, sociable and irresistible, to appeal to those who didn't know they wanted to play and people who aren't normally active. Ping! forms part of a wider social table tennis scene, that also comprises of pubs, cafes, shopping centres, colleges, universities, public spaces, community organisations, sports clubs and more.

Suffolk County Council have asked Sentinel Leisure Trust to take a lead on the project and work initially with the town and parish councils to deliver the below.

They specifically want to work with us on:

- Auditing, mapping and promoting existing social/recreational table tennis infrastructure as part of the wider piece of work
- Helping existing groups and initiatives use table tennis to enhance their offer.
- Setting up a new Ping Pong Parlour
- Creating a cluster of public tables within a strategic location within the county.
- Primary Schools: using the Primary Schools Premium and piloting TTE's brand new TT Kidz project to get U11s playing the game

The key areas for us to focus on are:

1. Understanding what existing infrastructure there's in place at the moment;
2. Implementing a cluster of tables in public spaces – this type of table <http://www.cornilleau.com/en/products/tables/pro-outdoor/pro-510-outdoor/>.
3. Integrating table tennis across existing initiatives/settings.

So, my first task is to engage with you to 1) find out if you currently have any outdoor table tennis provision of any kind, 2) it's condition and usage if you have any figures and 3) if you don't have provision would this project be something you would like to get involved in.

There is going to be funding to allow outdoor table tennis provision to be built/implement in outdoor spaces.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Matt – Sentinel Leisure Trust

Below is a brief outline of how the funding may work.

The “funding” comes in the form of both reduced cost tables and “match funding” provided as part of the project by the Most Active County PING! partnership.

There are various packages etc. that can be obtained but below are two clear examples of how the costs to you of acquiring a table may break down:

☐ An indoor table – normal cost around £300 – can be acquired as part of the project for around £200 with a further half of this paid by the project. Hence you would only need to find £100 as a venue.

☐ An outdoor table – normal cost around £1,500 – can be acquired as part of the project for around £1,120 with a further half of this paid by the project. Hence you would need to find around £550 as a venue.

Obviously you can pay this out of your own funds (or fundraising) however in addition to this access to low cost & funded equipment we would be really interested in working with you to assist you try to find sources of match funding for the “balance” if required.

I stress there may be additional costs - fixing of outdoor tables, equipment (although again the project may be able to assist with this) etc. – and there are various packages/equipment options however the basic premise is that the project will essentially cover 50% of most of the costs associated in implementing a table and that we can work with people to apply for funding to try to ensure there is no cost to sites.

If you are interested in discussing this further please let me know and we can arrange to meet.

Kind regards

Phil – SCC Directorate of Health, Wellbeing and Children’s Services