

New street skate facility for Whitwick youngsters

NORTH West Leicestershire District Council has invested £40,000 to improve facilities at Whitwick Park for young people.

A street skate run is now open with quarter pipes at either end, whilst other improvements include a youth shelter and roundabout.

The new facilities, which are located next to the existing play area, follow consultation with the community and the local youth assisted with the finalising of the chosen equipment.



Local hockey hero honoured

MICK Hudson, a hockey coach, canoe instructor and youth leader from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, has been presented with a Barclays Spaces for Sports Local Hero Award and a £1,000 cheque to honour 40 years work in grassroots sport.

Mick was presented his award in recognition of the impact he has made on youth hockey and for his years of service to Ashby Hockey Club. The Club enjoys links with the Council's Hood Leisure Centre, using their facilities and pitch.

Club coach and 1st teamer, Ivan Harling, who nominated him, said: "Hundreds of young hockey players over the years have been influenced by Mick. We come to rely on people like Mick who give unselfishly of their time in order to improve

the club and it is fitting that he should be honoured in this way. Mick has chosen to donate the cheque to the club and the money will be spent on buying much needed equipment and for specialist coaching from National League standard players."

Local Hero Mick said: "I am delighted to have won this award, but it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the other coaches and volunteers that I have worked with. This award is recognition of their efforts as well as my own."



Volleyball – a sport for all

WHICH sport is played locally by people of all shapes and sizes, all ages, both sexes and different nationalities?

You can find them all at Hermitage Klober Volleyball Club which was started almost 20 years ago. This followed initial 'pump-priming' by the Council to introduce new sports into the District.

The Club is based at the Hermitage Leisure Centre and operates all year round.

It has grown to be the largest Club in Leicestershire with teams in each of the Leicestershire Volleyball Association Mens, Mixed and Ladies Leagues. It has also introduced many beginners to the sport.

They have a history of success with several players progressing on to National League volleyball. Additionally, the Ladies squad have been Leicestershire League Champions for the past two seasons. Through the years, they have had members originating from France, Germany, Belgium, The Czech Republic, the United States, Poland, Canada, Brazil and Holland.

They are currently looking to forge relationships with the local Secondary schools to provide taster training sessions and give school-aged students the opportunity to come down to watch competitive League volleyball.

Scott Brownlow, Club Committee member, said "Our success story is an excellent example of the District Council taking an initial risk a number of years ago to develop sport in the area. As a result, and due to the hard work of so many Club members and the Leisure Centre management, we have developed into a major part of volleyball in Leicestershire today."

For further information, please call Scott on 01455 445775 or by e-mail at hermitage.volleyball@ntlworld.com

