

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Members
in remote presence: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Heather Johnson
Derrick Ashley (Vice Chairman) Chris Kennedy
David Andrews Valerie Metcalfe
Ross Houston Mary Sartin

In remote attendance: John Bevan, Frances Button, David Gardner

Officers
In remote presence: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Buck - Corporate Director
Jon Carney - Corporate Director
Keith Kellard - Head of Finance
Paul Roper - Head of Project & Funding Delivery
Marigold Wilberforce - Head of Property
Mike Stevens - Head of Asset Maintenance
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Also in remote presence: Matt Bowmer (London Borough of Enfield)
Laurie Elks, Abigail Woodman, Caroline Day, Peter Mudge

Part I

925 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

926 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 be approved and signed.

927 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Three members of the public spoke in regard to agenda item 7, Landscape and Open Space Project List.

Laurie Elks:

- glad that the exercise set out the Authority's landscape ambitions, realisable priorities and gave a clear view of budgets and sources of funds;
- the estimated total cost of all the projects was modest compared with the Ice Centre project;
- the Park thrives with a twin track of popular facilities and accessible landscape;
- the ambition falls short, especially in the south;
- more people use Leyton and Walthamstow Marshes than Fishers Green;

- the vast majority of projects for Park Development Framework areas 2 to 5 proposed in the Upper Lee Valley Landscape Strategy, which was produced by Witherson Watson Mann some years ago, have not made it on to the draft list;
- he was unconvinced that these projects had even been considered and was unclear why not;
- example projects:
 - a public route along the dividing path between King George V reservoir north and south, linking Enfield to Epping Forest with scope for circular routes along the Flood Relief Channel;
 - connection of Walthamstow Marshes with Low Hall;
 - a light bridge over the Lee to link Hackney Marshes – which was an excellent candidate for S106 monies when Spitalfield market is redeveloped;
- there were many do-able projects which should be embraced within the Authority's landscape ambitions; and
- officers should be tasked to look again and see if the Authority's ambition can be expressed more comprehensively.

Abigail Woodman:

- requested an update on the sluice at Middlesex Filter Beds;
- she had previously been advised that funding for this project had been identified but that it had been delayed;
- given this she was surprised that the project was listed for completion within 3 years with no funding identified, why hadn't the project advanced;
- considerable public feedback had already been expressed in opposition to events being held on Waterworks meadow and this so should be removed from the draft list immediately;
- Save Lea Marshes had set up crowdfunding to rewild the site;
- she was under the impression that there was a moratorium on events being held on the Waterworks meadow until survey works were completed and analysed; and
- survey results, which showed that holding events on the meadow would be a danger to wildlife, would be shared with the Authority shortly.

Caroline Day:

- questioned whether the draft list of landscape projects represented an equal commitment to projects in both the north and south of the Park; and
- she considered the draft list was heavily based on the north of the Park and enabling large scale projects were favoured for the south of the Park.

The Chairman advised that the draft list of landscape projects was a starting point and the Authority was open to projects being added or deleted from the list. He and officers were very happy to have a discussion around projects in the south of the Park and if funding was identified then projects could be progressed. Feedback from residents, riparian authorities and other stakeholders was welcomed to enable the list of projects to be further developed.

The Corporate Director responded:

- the Chairman had offered to meet with Laurie Elks to go through his list of proposed projects;
- it was expected that projects would be included or deleted from the list following feedback from stakeholders;

- the Middlesex Filter Beds sluice project was ongoing but it was proving difficult to obtain quotes. A report would be submitted seeking approval of project funding when it was ready to begin;
- the use of Waterworks meadow for events was subject to analysis of survey results; and
- the draft list of projects was not weighted towards a particular area of the Park and the area balance of projects would change when projects were completed, added or deleted.

Caroline Day advised that funding was available from the Froglife project which could be used for a new pond in the Nature Reserve and there were already good opportunities for introducing small scale habitats on the Waterworks meadow.

928 Q3 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21 Paper E/713/21

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

Members commented that as a result of the recent announcement of future changes to social distancing measures, the Authority should consider all opportunities to maximise revenue from outdoor space activities, such as catering, Wild Camping and staycations. The Chief Executive advised that officers were considering how to capitalise on greater use of outdoor space over the spring and summer whilst minimising adverse impact on open spaces.

(1) the report was noted.

939 Q3 CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21 Paper E/712/21

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

(1) the report was noted.

940 LANDSCAPE AND OPEN SPACE PROJECT LIST WORKING DOCUMENT Paper E/711/21

The Chairman reiterated that the draft project list was a starting point.

The report was introduced by the Head of Project and Funding Delivery, including:

- the draft project list brought together a range of open space projects from various source documents which could be delivered when funding was available;
- there was a range of other projects, within the Park Development Framework, Biodiversity Action Plan, site management plans etc, which sat behind the draft project list;
- the draft project list was a working document to enable input from stakeholders; and
- a webpage would be developed to facilitate stakeholder feedback on the project list.

Member comments included:

- the need to access active travel funding to improve connectivity;
- support for the proposed project of a bridge to Hackney Marshes;
- analysis of footfall across the Park should inform where delivery of projects would benefit most Park users;
- a review of riparian proposed major infrastructure projects would be useful to enable access to Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to help deliver landscape and open space projects;

- request for improved location descriptions;
- the Spitalbrook wetland park project would be a project of regional significance; and
- Members would find it helpful to know projected costs for each project.

- (1) **the draft list of potential and existing open spaces projects attached as Appendix A to Paper E/711/21 was noted;**
- (2) **making the draft of a project list available publically and to stakeholders enabling dialogue on the Authority's proposed projects and allowing further proposals from users and stakeholders to come forward was approved.**

941 CAR PARKING CHARGES – LEE VALLEY WHITE WATER CENTRE Paper E/709/21

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

Member comments included:

- the offer of free parking for visitors spending more than £5 in the café provided opportunity for increased revenue from the venue;
- the need for improved signage from the station and bus stop and promotion of more active travel to the venue; and
- the minimum café spend for free parking could be higher.

In response it was advised that signage and transport connectivity was being considered across the Park. It was hoped that the introduction of car parking charges would encourage a change in travel mode by casual visitors to the venue.

- (1) **implementation of car park charges at the Lee Valley White Water Centre via an Automatic Number Plate Recognition system as set out in paragraph 13 of Paper E/709/21;**
- (2) **the charges as set out in paragraph 8 of Paper E/709/21;**
- (3) **installation of Electric Vehicle Charging points (subject to site survey); and**
- (4) **waiving of the Authority's Financial Regulation 571 as set out in paragraph 20 of Paper E/709/21 was approved.**

Members of the public left the meeting.

942 **EXEMPT ITEMS**

THAT based on the principles of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information again on the principles as defined in those sections of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Section Number
11	Update on Abercrombie Lodge	3

12	Flexible Retirement Request	3
13	Hayes Hill Farm Update	3

943 UPDATE ON ABERCROMBIE LODGE Paper E/710/21

The report was introduced by the Deputy Chief Executive.

- (1) the outcome of the mediation as set out in Paper E/710/21 was noted;**
- (2) the way forward as recommended in paragraphs 14 to 27 of Paper E/710/21 was approved.**

The Chairman agreed to take an additional agenda item due to urgency.

944 HAYES HILL FARM UPDATE Paper E/715/21

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

- (1) the employee pension update detailed in paragraphs 6 to 13 of paper E/715/21 was noted.**

Officers other than the Deputy Chief Executive and Committee & Member Services Manager left the meeting.

945 FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT REQUEST Paper E/714/21

The report was introduced by the Deputy Chief Executive.

- (1) the flexible retirement request and associated one-off costs as detailed in paragraphs 10 to 16 and paragraph 21 of Paper E/714/21 was approved.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 11.04am and ended at 12.18pm