

## LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES 18 NOVEMBER 2021

Members  
in remote presence: John Bevan (Chairman) Steven Heather  
Gordon Nicholson (Vice Chairman) Calvin Horner  
Ken Ayling Terry Wheeler  
David Gardner John Wyllie  
Mike Garnett

Officers  
in remote presence: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive  
Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive  
Dan Buck - Corporate Director  
Paul Roper - Head of Projects and Funding Delivery  
Vince Donaldson - Senior Contracts & Quality Manager  
Jon Carney - Corporate Director  
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager  
Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also present  
in remote presence: Abigail Woodman - Save Lea Marshes

#### Part I

The Chairman of this Committee was having connection issues, so the Vice Chairman took the chair.

#### 188 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	<i>Prejudicial</i> ✓
<i>Ken Ayling</i>	5	<i>Member of Broxbourne Borough Council</i>	<i>Non-Prejudicial</i>
<i>Gordon Nicholson</i>	5	<i>Member of Broxbourne Borough Council</i>	<i>Non-Prejudicial</i>

#### 189 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2020 be approved and signed.**

#### 190 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Abigail Woodman, representing Save Lea Marshes addressed the Committee:

- Save Lea Marshes welcomes your Environment Policy.
- We ask that you do not develop a weak policy. The current policy is weak and needs to be bolder, you should not be aspiring, rather doing.
- Increasing biodiversity shouldn't be limited to sites with designations.
- Pesticides and insecticides should be banned.

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES 18 NOVEMBER 2021**

- You should not be too concerned with tidiness, such as leaf clearing.
- You should look at re-wilding sites.
- There is a lot to be commended in your Environmental Policy, please don't waste the opportunity for creating a policy without teeth.

The Chairman had regained connection and took the chair.

191 SCRUTINY SCOPING REVIEW – ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Paper S/59/21

The report was introduced by the Head of Projects and Funding Delivery, who informed Members that we currently have an Environmental Strategy which dates from 2012, it is outdated and doesn't reflect current legislation and policy context. The Authority therefore doesn't have a modern or relevant Environmental Policy at present.

A Member asked if we have a separate carbon neutral plan as most local authorities have adopted one with a target of 2030. Another Member agreed that we should do much more regarding climate change and that net zero was not overly ambitious. The Head of Projects and Funding Delivery responded stating that we do not have one and it may be difficult for us to achieve being carbon neutral.

A Member suggested that contractors should either sign contracts or have their own Environmental Policies regarding how they deal with waste and recycling. We should also be ensuring that we use recyclable products wherever possible and avoid plastics and promote the use of renewables.

A Member liked Abigail Woodman's suggested of re-wilding and felt that this was something the policy should feature.

A Member commented that we should consider energy sources especially in light of the current energy crisis.

Another Member felt that buildings should be of sustainable design and have multi-functional uses.

A Member suggested that along with rain water harvesting, we should also look at grey water.

A Member commented that we should look to using electric vehicles and have a greater ambition towards reducing private vehicle movements.

Officers confirmed that a paper of the new draft Environment Policy will come to the next Scrutiny Committee on 24 February 2022, where comments from this meeting will be fed in. If necessary, a Working Group may be formed to work on this policy in more detail.

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) the focus of the next Scrutiny Review be the Environmental Policy as per the scope set out in paragraph 13 of Paper S/59/21 be recommended to the Executive Committee.**

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES 18 NOVEMBER 2021

192 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2021/22 Q2

Paper S/58/21

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director who informed Members that this report differs from its predecessors in that it aligns with the updated scorecard indicators which were agreed with Members of the Scrutiny Committee and was due for full implementation 2021, but delayed due to the impact of Covid-19.

A Member queried why there was an increase in formal complaints over car parking charges. The Corporate Director replied stating that this relates mainly to the White Water Centre, with software issues for the app and users not seeing the signs regarding charging. This situation is settling down now. Another issue had been down to vandalism of parking machines in open spaces.

A Member asked why usage of the website had decreased. The Corporate Director responded stating that this was down to the pandemic and venues being closed, since venues have reopened website usage has returned to normal.

A Member asked why there had been complaints over delays in answering enquiries. The Corporate Director responded stating that this was mainly down to Freedom of Information requests that are often complex and time consuming to answer.

A Member asked about why there was an issue with getting riding instructors at the Riding Centre. The Corporate Director responded stating that this was a national issue, with many instructors finding other work during the pandemic. Instructors require specialist training but the situation was slowly improving.

**(1) the report was noted.**

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Chairman

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Date

The meeting started at 1.05pm and ended at 1.40pm.