

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 7 JULY 2022

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Calvin Horner
David Andrews Ross Houston
James Asser (Deputy for LB Newham) Heather Johnson
Susan Barker Ian Kemp (Deputy East Herts DC)
John Bevan Christopher Kennedy
Janet Burgess Gordon Nicholson
Nesil Caliskan Suzanne Rutland-Barsby
Mike Garnett Mary Sartin
David Gardner Marshall Vance
Lesley Greensmyth Holly Whitbread
Steven Heather John Wyllie

Apologies Received From: Ken Ayling, Josh Blacker, Dilip Patel, Rokhsana Fiaz,
Graham McAndrew, Abdul Wahid, Terry Wheeler

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Buck - Corporate Director
Jon Carney - Corporate Director
Keith Kellard - Head of Finance
Stephen Bromberg - Head of Communications
Victoria Yates - Head of HR
Busola Oladunjoye - HR Advisor
Cath Patrick - Conservation Manager
Jessica Whitehead - Volunteers Office (Via Remote Access)
Pauline Andrews - PA to Chief Executive
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present: James Newman - S151 Officer, London Borough of Enfield

Part I

50 To note the Membership of the Authority:

Constituent Council	Member
Essex County Council	Susan Barker Mike Garnett Marshall Vance Holly Whitbread
Hertfordshire County Council	David Andrews Lesley Greensmyth Calvin Horner Graham McAndrew
Broxbourne Borough Council	Ken Ayling

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East Hertfordshire District Council	Gordon Nicholson Suzanne Rutland-Barsby John Wyllie
Epping Forest District Council	Steven Heather Mary Sartin
London Borough of Barnet	Ross Houston
London Borough of Camden	Heather Johnson
London Borough of Ealing	Josh Blacker
London Borough of Enfield	Nesil Caliskan
Royal Borough of Greenwich	David Gardner
London Borough of Hackney	Chris Kennedy
London Borough of Haringey	John Bevan
London Borough of Harrow	Paul Osborn
London Borough of Havering	Dilip Patel
London Borough of Islington	Janet Burgess MBE
London Borough of Newham	Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Abdul Wahid
London Borough of Waltham Forest	Terry Wheeler
Non-riparian London boroughs	Vacancy
Co-opted Members:	
Environment Agency	Ben Radbone
Canal & River Trust	Mark Pearson

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1 (a) APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

The Chairman proposed David Andrews, seconded by Suzanne Rutland-Barsby.

Ross Houston proposed Heather Johnson, seconded by David Gardner.

Vote: David Andrews x 12 and Heather Johnson x 8

(1) David Andrews was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Authority.

1 (b) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

David Andrews took the Chair and proposed Paul Osborn, seconded by Gordon Nicholson.

(1) Paul Osborn was appointed Chairman of the Authority.

The Chairman took the Chair.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2022 be approved and signed.

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3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

No requests from the public to speak or present petitions had been received for this meeting.

4 GENERAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS INCLUDING AMENDMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE, INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND PROPOSED COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR 2022/23 – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMEN Paper A/4320/22

The Chairman informed Members that the main points of the report were to note the change to the terms of reference for the Audit and Executive Committee regarding how the Audit Committee reports to the Executive Committee; the formation of an Independent Remuneration Panel and the Membership of committees as agreed at the earlier group meetings.

- (1) Membership of Committees and Groups for 2022/23 as agreed at the meeting and set out at Addendum A to these minutes;**
- (2) amendment of Audit Committee and Executive Committee terms of reference as detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 of Paper A/4320/22;**
- (3) an Independent Remuneration Panel be formed; and**
- (4) any appointments unfilled at this meeting will be agreed through Group Leaders and reported to the next Authority meeting or Executive Committee were approved.**

5 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2022/23 Paper A/4321/22

- (1) the proposals for appointments to outside bodies for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A to Paper A/4322/22 was approved.**

6 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022/23 Paper A/4322/22

The Chairman highlighted to Members that rather than two Member tours in September, there would now be one tour in September and one tour in April. He encouraged all Members to attend these tours as they are helpful in understanding the Park.

- (1) the calendar of meetings for 2022/23 as shown at Appendix A to Paper A/4322/22 was approved.**

James Asser joined the meeting during the next item.

7 LVRPA BUSINESS PLAN 2022-2023

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Business Plan 2022/23, key points included:

- Headlines from 2021/22 include a successful reopening of venues after the pandemic, with Park visits up 30% on pre-pandemic levels; the return of major events; a budget surplus of £370k; progress of both the Ice Centre project and East India Dock Basin project.

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- The budget was approved in January 2022 where Members agreed 0% change to the levy; there is a small budget deficit of £137k; a pay rise assumption of 2%; the Leisure Services Contract (LSC) management fee of £2.1m and £400k contingency; additional income from investment projects of £177k; and a general reserves position at the end of 2021/22 of £3.8m.
- There are a number of budget challenges and uncertainties with inflation at 9.1%; higher utilities; increase in cost of living; pay rise might need to rise to 4%; supply shortages which might delay improvements to venues; caravan sales with a significant net profit of £200k expectation; an income budget set to increase by £7m.
- We have done well to keep the Levy down over the past 20+ years; in 2001/02 it was £9.6m, today it is £9.77m; legally we could charge £27m.
- The LSC had a successful transfer on 1st April 2022 with no service disruption; there has been steady trading for the first three months with usage 10% up; good H&S and Service Quality scores; the Authority's IT department have been offering assistance; the pumps at the White Water Centre will need to be refurbished and/or replaced; GLL are working on investment plans for the venues with a meeting in July to discuss with the Authority.
- The Ice Centre had its Topping Out Event last week; it will be opening at the end of this year where there will be events to promote this; currently we are on a short term borrowing model for the £30m, we will need to start looking at long term borrowing models and getting specialist advise on this.
- The Wave London has had the first round of public and key stakeholder consultations, with a press release and an exhibition and Lee Valley Athletics Centre; we will need to obtain planning consent by the end of the year; determine an Agreement for Lease for next year; we want to activate the whole of the site; the project will cost £40m; the exclusivity agreement will expire in April.
- At Eton Manor we will determine a viable investment plan for the site which may involve working with UCL; a feasibility study provided three options, our favoured option included an additional sports hall, 2nd outdoor pitch, the tennis courts becoming multi-use; need to consider how the arena could be better utilised; need to obtain support from London Legacy Development Corporation and London Borough of Waltham Forest; need to progress an outline planning application.
- East India Dock Basin complete all technical surveys; conclude funding applications, Levelling Up Fund and National Heritage Lottery; progress detailed design and planning application; this is a £7m project, with most of the money going towards de-silting.
- Spitalbrook and Broxbourne Leisure Pool, soft marketing to test investment potential; develop vision/masterplan for the sites in the next few months.
- Visitor accommodation, soft marketing at Lee Valley White Water Centre and masterplan/outline planning application; Eton Manor incorporate hotel into site wide masterplan/planning application; Waterworks, secure youth hostel type development.
- Open spaces investment projects, Middlesex Filter Beds, S106 money to install sluice and pipe to provide water supply; St Pauls Field, new footpath to access new areas of open space; Spitalbrook restoration of River Lynch.
- Events, Pro League Hockey, Common Wealth Games, UCI Track Cycling Champions League and a range of community events such as a music festival and Shakespeare at Myddelton House.
- London 2012 Anniversary will help to promote and raise profile of the Park with an exhibition at the Velopark; sharing legacy experience and success at anniversary events; Chair and Chief Executive attending Mayor and BOA events.

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- Organisational development to include a review of office requirements and location; fresh training and development programme; increase short term capacity in areas critical for delivering priority projects/programmes; and workforce planning.
- 5-10 year business plan has challenges and opportunities with huge growth in the lee valley; major housing developments; transport infrastructure improvements; this will create pressure on open spaces; we will need significant investment programmes for venues and open spaces; creates an opportunity for land and property strategy to deliver capital for investment and improved revenue position.
- Medium term financial plan will be in a positive position in a couple of years time, but we will need to make investments.

A Member commented that the Medium Term financial strategy may need to be revisited to ensure that it is realistic given the energy crisis and rising inflation. The Chief Executive responded stating that this will be looked at to ensure all scenarios are considered.

A Member commented that at the Spitalbrook site, public access should be key to any considerations. The Chairman pointed that an overage clause with La Farge runs out this year, it had previously prevented us from making plans for this site.

A Member commented on the office capacity for Myddelton House and pointed out that it is a heritage buildings and the gardens an national asset and was sure that an alternative use for the building could easily be found. The Chairman responded the considerations for Myddelton House were in the early stages and office space requirements is something which many businesses are currently considering.

8 VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME 2021-22

The Volunteers Officer joined the meeting remotely and gave a presentation on the Volunteers Programme, key points included:

- The Volunteers programme in 2021 had over 1248 volunteers on our database, with over 335 regularly volunteering; we successfully renewed 'Investing in Volunteers' accreditation; 'Have a Go Lesson' at Lee Valley Riding Centre and various events have been supported by volunteers; Surfers Against Sewage have helped to collect litter from around the Park; some volunteers hours have been restricted due to the pandemic; we have had no corporate groups but do have new partnerships with Building BloQs; there was a 42% increase in applications compared to 2020.
- Partnerships in 2021 consisted of young people from Hertford Regional College and CHEXS; litter picking groups include Lee Valley Wombles and Friends of Lea Marshes; we have many walking groups and conservation groups; long term partnerships include E A Bowles Society and Canal and River Trust.
- Volunteer hours have seen a 7% increase from 2020-21.
- Using the Heritage Lottery Formula, the monetary value in 2021 was £238,078, which is a 15% increase on 2020.
- Volunteer to staff ratios have remained mostly the same; gender make up between males and females is the same as last year, although we have now added 'other/prefer not to say//non-binary' with 5% choosing that category; 8% of volunteers consider themselves to have disabilities, which is a 2% increase on last year; and our age make up shows that most volunteers are in the 26-44 and 45-64 year brackets.

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- The 2021 Volunteers Party was held at the White Water Centre with Chris Dallison winning the Volunteer of the Year prize; there were also many long service awards with 21 reaching 5 years and 5 reaching 25 years which shows the dedication of many of our volunteers.
- Currently we have 218 active volunteers; walks programmes have resumed with many celebrating the 10 year London 2012 anniversary; continued support for events; with restrictions from the pandemic lifted volunteers have the freedom to get back to the volunteering they love; volunteers have confirmed that they noticed no difference with the new LSC; and corporate interest is returning.
- New projects include a volunteer led walks programme; we will be looking for volunteers this weekend to enable the opening of Rye House Gatehouse; we are working with our new Community Health and Wellbeing Officer to map and run sensory walks in partnership with Sense and considering the health and wellbeing of visitors, staff and volunteers; working with our Human Resources Advisor to improve equality, diversity and inclusion.
- 300+ organisations have been working towards the 'Vision', with ambitions for what volunteering should look like and how this will make volunteers feel about their roles. The Vision states a need for more diversity, collaboration, experimentation and devolution of power. Five key themes include awareness and appreciation of volunteers; power; equality and inclusion; collaboration; and experimentation.

The Chairman thanked the Volunteers Officer for her presentation and suggested that Members email her if they had any questions.

9 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

The Conservation Manager gave a presentation on the Biodiversity Action Plan, key points included:

- The Park has a large number of designated sites including Ramsar, SPA, SSSI, Borough Grade 1, Site of Local Importance, Local Wildlife Site and SMINC.
- The Biodiversity department has two full time officers and over 30 survey volunteers; they have £50k capital works annually; oversee agri-environmental schemes; represent the Authority on regional biodiversity forums; work in partnership with national and regional conservation organisations; raise awareness of our biodiversity resources through public events; and act in an advisory role in biodiversity matters.
- We support work across the Authority including planning applications for the Authority and external planning applications, commenting on local plans and policies, and advising managers on biodiversity management.
- We have produced a new Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-29.
- We invest time and money in data agreements with Herts Environmental Records Centre, Greenspace Information for Greater London and Essex Wildlife Trust; we also invest in site surveys for habitats, river corridors and event mitigation plans.
- We have installed a Common Tern raft at Seventy Acres Lake, it features a new mega-raft design which will mitigate impacts of increased Black-headed Gull populations; this design will hopefully be used at locations.
- A pilot study in the summer of 2021 on hedgehog populations in the Lower Lea Valley at the Waterworks, Lee Valley Riding Centre and Leyton Marsh was initiated in partnership

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with ZSL and People's Trust for Endangered Species; future steps will include habitat management and working with partners to undertake further studies.

- £100k S106 money for the River Lynch enhancement scheme with partnership with the Environment Agency will include a new river bridge and restoring the rivers function; we are waiting for permissions from the Environment Agency for work to commence in autumn 2022.
- £85K S106 money for the National Grid Reinforcement Project over 5 years to spend on specified areas in the north of the Park; Ashley Pitt had enhanced areas of reedbed in winter 2021-22; this will help deliver targets of the Lee Valley Wetlands Assessment.
- £750k S106 money for the Cheshunt Lakeside development to spend on habitat works adjacent to the development and visitor infrastructure; we commissioned a leaflet to be sent to new residents which details the importance of wildlife and how to behave responsibly.
- National Grid funded the translocation of over 5000 Rudd to Seventy Acres Lake and Abbots Lake from a development site in Stratford; they also contributed £3k to support a school visit for students from a Stratford Primary School with a programme to be developed by our Learning and Engagement team.
- 50k funding received through the Rewild London for installation of floating reedbeds and Lee Park Way and Tottenham Locks, this is in partnership with Canal and River Trust and Thames 2; over 125m of reedbed will be installed by November 2022.
- River Lea enhancements to the south of Lea Bridge Road in partnership with Wildlife Gardeners of Haggerston and London Borough of Hackney to be delivered by December 2022; funding has been acquired via a number of channels and further partnerships are being formed.
- Continued efforts to enable conservation activation across the region.

The Chairman thanked the Conservation Manager for her presentation and suggested that Members email her any questions they may have.

10 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 20 October 2022 at 2.00pm.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.05pm and ended at 3.30pm