

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES
18 JUNE 2015**

To: Ross Houston (Chairman) Mary Sartin
Stephen Carr (Vice Chairman) Syd Stavrou
Gwyneth Deakins Lyn White
Chris Kennedy

Apologies Received From: Gordon Nicholson

Officers Present: Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
Michael Sterry - Head of Performance
Alice Twomey - Solicitor
Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present: Matt Winfield - Deputy Director, Sustrans
Dan Bogdanowicz - Senior Policy & Development Manager, London Cycling Campaign
Andrew Summers - Cycling Strategy & Planning Manager, Transport for London
Rosie Tharp - Enterprise Team, Canal & River Trust
Bill Moran - Head of Venues, Lee Valley Leisure Trust
Brian Daley - Director of Venues, Lee Valley Leisure Trust
Nigel Foxall - Director of Business Support, Lee Valley Leisure Trust
George Cutting - Deputy Member, East Herts District Council

Part I

102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	<i>Prejudicial</i> ✓
<i>Chris Kenney</i>	5	<i>Member of Sustrans</i>	

103 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015 be approved and signed.

104 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

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105 CYCLING REVIEW – STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS

Sustrans

Matt Winfield from Sustrans gave a presentation to Members on cycling, key points included:

- The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is an important partner for Sustrans and enjoys a close working relationship with the Authority.
- The National Cycling Network has too many barriers, such as the low bridge at Copper Mill Lane, Lea Bridge Road flooding, and dealing with motorbike issues, we need to work to find better solutions.
- Sustrans would like to see better signage in the Lee Valley Park, along with good surface fabric and lighting in quieter areas.
- Sustrans would like to encourage shared use with pedestrians and cyclists and for both leisure and commuting.
- Sustrans are looking for segregated cycle lanes on highways where possible, however off the highways shared usage is often more appropriate.
- They have been working with schools to encourage children into cycling, and have been working closely with the Velopark.
- They are developing a Memorandum of Understanding to protect the National Cycling Networks.
- Cyclists account for approximately 16% of road traffic in central London.
- 600,000 trips per day are made by bike.
- Sustrans have many outreach programmes, such as education programmes and volunteering.
- Sustrans are involved in 3 projects; Central London Grid, Mini Hollands and Quietways.

The Chairman thanked Matt for his presentation. Members considered the following points further:

- A Member asked what Sustrans are doing outside of London. Matt replied that they were working to ensure that routes joined up to the London boundaries and he would put Members in touch with colleagues who deal with Hertfordshire and Essex.
- A Member asked what could be done to remove barriers but still stop motorcyclists. Matt replied that this was a difficult issue, Dutch motorcycle humps and chicanes have been used on many National Cycling Network routes. Research is being conducted by one of his colleagues, where barriers are being removed to see what happens.
- A Member asked what could be done to make cycling more safe on roads. Matt replied that Sustrans work with people who are less confident on the roads, helping them with awareness and road safety. Rosie Tharp also responded stating that London Borough of Hackney also offer cycling training.
- A Member commented that cyclists often fail to have respect for other road users. Matt agreed that there was an issue of behaviour, but that it went both ways.

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- A Member suggested that a targeted approach to make cycling safer was required, rather than segregation of highways.
- The Chairman asked Matt how the Authority might better work with Sustrans. Matt replied by stating that the Authority needed leadership on cycling, and to be working with other local authorities.

London Cycling Campaign

Tom Bogdanowicz from London Cycling Campaign (LCC) gave Members a presentation on cycling, key points included:

- The LCC is a charity which has been active since 1978, with over 12,000 members.
- They provide advice on design considerations, good consultation practice and have created a guide for councillors about creating space for cycling.
- The Lee Valley Park has great potential for cycling and should get involved in projects early on in order to influence them, even when they are not on their land.
- The LCC are extremely proud of some of the work they have done to help improve infrastructure, such as the underpass on the Bow roundabout.
- The population in the Lee Valley is growing, as roads become more congested, other means of transport will become more necessary. Surveys show that ¼ of the population would cycle if conditions were right.
- Signage is an issue. The bridge next to the Velopark has no signage.

Gwyneth Deakins left the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Tom for his presentation. Members considered the following points further:

- A Member expressed concern over the signage issue at the Velopark, and asked if LCC had been working with the Authority to improve this. Tom replied that he had given a presentation to the London Legacy Development Corporation on the subject of signage a couple of months ago and could forward information to Members on this.
- The Chairman asked Tom how the Authority might better work with LCC. Tom replied by stating that it was important for the Authority to work with all the bodies involved in cycling and the London Legacy Development Corporation. The Authority also need to ensure that routes were properly sign posted and linked up to other boroughs.

Transport for London

Andrew Summers from Transport for London (TfL) gave a presentation to Members on Cycling, key points included:

- The Lee Valley will benefit from many transport projects, including Crossrail and Crossrail 2 along with a better junctions programme, East London river crossing, West Anglia line improvements and the Mayors vision for cycling.

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- There is significant potential for more people cycling within the Lee Valley Regional Park, particularly in and around the Olympic Park, but TfL has identified barriers to cycling that need to be addressed, specifically around safety on highways.
- There are many cycling projects taking place, such as the Mini Holland schemes in London Borough of Enfield and Waltham Forest; 6 new Cycle Superhighway routes; and cycle hire expansion in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- A new edition of the London Cycling Design Standards was consulted on last year and the final document was published in December 2014.

The Chairman thanked Andrew for his presentation. Members considered the following points further:

- A Member commented that space for bikes on trains is limited. Andrew agreed that this was the case and some trains at peak times do not allow bikes on at all, this is something which will need to be looked at. Members also agreed that secure cycle parking at transport hubs was essential.
- A Member asked if TfL could offer advice to councillors regarding the education and safety of young people cycling on roads. Andrew replied that TfL's Behaviour Change Team often goes to schools to give advice and he could put Members in touch with them.
- A Member asked how the cycle hire would work. Andrew said there are some issues around how the cycle hire would work. It is already implemented at some Greater Anglia stations, where you hire and return to the same place. Andrew offered to put the Authority in touch with those who are working on the project.
- The Chairman asked Andrew how the Authority might better work with TfL. Andrew replied, stating that TfL is a massive organisation, so understanding the different projects that are taking place and the teams involved in those projects would be beneficial, which he offered to help with. He also urged the Authority to plan for the continued growth of population in the Lee Valley and to capitalise on the potential offer for cycling that this growth will bring.

Canal & River Trust

Rosie Tharp from Canal & River Trust gave a presentation to Members on cycling, key points included:

- The Canal & River Trust cares for over 2000 miles of waterways.
- They have conducted canal user interaction studies on Regent's Canal during 2008 and 2013. Regent's Canal has seen a 62% increase in peak times, with cyclists making up over 70% of total flow on weekdays. They have also noted a 20% decrease in user interactions despite the increase in flows.
- To help encourage acceptable behaviour on the tow paths they launched the Share the Space campaign in 2012. The campaign was developed with a wide range of stakeholders and is supported by volunteers, signs and events. The aim of the campaign was to be mindful of other users on the tow path; reminding cyclists that pedestrians have right of way; and to give way to waterway users, this was delivered with humorous signage such as 'Duck Lanes'.
- Working to create better infrastructure, such as improving the fabric of tow paths.

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- Working with boroughs and other bodies to look at how connections can be made and improved.

The Chairman thanked Rosie for her presentation. Members considered the following points:

- A Member asked if Canal & River Trust were policing the encroachment onto the tow path of moored boats. Rosie replied stating that they have an enforcement team which can take legal action against persistent offenders.
- A Member asked about speed humps on a tow path in Islington. Rosie explained that the speed humps had been put in in response to complaints from the local council and residents to slow down cyclists, there are also existing chicanes on this stretch of the tow path. Canal & River Trust appreciate that it is an imperfect solution and would like to take them out.
- The Chairman stated that the Lee Valley Park has a strong brand which is being used across the Park and asked if the Canal & River Trust would be able to work with us on the use of brand and signage to promote the park as a destination. Rosie replied that there was definitely an opportunity to work together and that the Canal & River Trust often incorporated secondary signage on their own signage.
- A Member asked if Canal & River Trust log any complaints that they receive. Rosie replied that they do all get logged. Many incidents do go unreported, and when complaints are received it is often via a local authority. Few complaints were regarding cycling.

Members noted the letter dated 20 January 2015 from the Ramblers Association (Hertfordshire & North Middlesex Area).

The Chairman informed Members that the next Scrutiny Committee meeting would hear evidence on cycling from riparian local authorities.

Matt Winfield, Tom Bogdanowicz, Andrew Summers, Rosie Thrap, Stephen Wilkinson and Alice Twomey all left the meeting.

106 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2014/15 Q4

Paper S/32/15

Nigel Foxall, Director of Business Support for the Lee Valley Leisure Trust introduced the report.

Members considered the following points:

- A Member asked what the planning approval details were for the Velpark and Eton Manor. Brian Daley replied that for the Velopark it was not our planning application but it was around signage. For Eton Manor it was for landscaping of the space which would have been allotments.
- A Member asked whether a high or low figure was better for the public awareness score. Michael Sterry replied that a high score was better as more public awareness was positive.

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- The Chairman asked why the revenue on catering at some venues was at 10% rather than the potential 25%. Bill Moran replied that this was due to the seasonal nature of some of the venues but that measures were in place to improve this outcome in the current year.
- A Member asked how customer satisfaction compares to other local authorities. Michael Sterry replied that there was no like for like comparison with the Authority, which is why we use net promoter scores which can be more easily compared.
- A Member pointed out that there was a national trend in horse riding lesson numbers falling, and that the Authority should continue to offer riding lessons at reduced costs. Bill Moran stated that the Riding Centre was also offering pony loan schemes in a bid to help reduce reliance on riding lessons for income.
- The Chairman asked if the farm would be on budget this year after the fluctuation in income from milk last year. Jon Carney replied that it should be unless the milk price alters again. The Chairman asked if officers had considered diversifying into secondary industries with the milk. Jon Carney replied that this had been looked into, but the set up costs and staffing were currently prohibitive.
- A Member asked why public satisfaction and complaints had increased at Picketts Lock Golf Course. Brian Daley replied that this was due to complaints over the review that had been done and compliments over how the green is looking at the moment.
- A Member asked why the CO2 target was wrong. Nigel Foxall replied that this target was based on predictions given to us by London Legacy Development Corporation and London Organising Committee for Olympic Games. There was also an issue with the District Heat System not working properly on Olympic Park.

(1) the report was noted; and

(2) the targets for 2015/16, set out in Paragraph 12 of Paper S/32/15 be recommended to Authority be approved.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 11am and ended at 1.45pm.