

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 12 MAY 2016

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Chris Kennedy
Derrick Ashley (Vice Chairman) Valerie Metcalfe
John Bevan Alan Searing
Heather Johnson Susan Barker (Deputy for Ricki Gadsby)

Apologies Received From: Ricki Gadsby

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
Stephen Wilkinson - Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Also present: Jimmy Russo – Valley Grown Nurseries Ltd

Part I

731 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

732 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Jimmy Russo, Valley Grown Nurseries Ltd, addressed the Committee, including:

- did the Authority believe that its remit included the destruction of the glasshouse business as the Lee Valley Leisure Trust's Chairman did not;
- the Authority's continuous attempts to have agricultural buildings defined as industrial buildings had been costly to the tax payer and Valley Grown Nurseries;
- there was no legal basis for the Authority's challenge and it would be better served by action outside of the courts such as lobbying for changes to the National Planning Policy Framework;
- the Authority's case had been dismissed by 4 judges and Lord Justice Lindblom had set out in the judgment the position of horticultural buildings in the Green Belt; and
- in his opinion inclusion within Park Development Framework proposals of compulsory purchase of glasshouses in Paynes Lane had been detrimental to his business and in his view the reason for doing so was questionable.

The Chairman thanked Mr Russo for his presentation and drew Members attention to the previously circulated letter, dated 9 May 2016, from the Secretary of the Lea Valley Growers Association.

ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES 12 MAY 2016

733 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
6	Update on outcome of the legal challenge against the decision of Epping Forest District Council to grant planning permission for a major extension to existing glasshouse premises at Paynes Lane, Nazeing	5

- 734 UPDATE ON OUTCOME OF THE LEGAL CHALLENGE AGAINST THE DECISION OF EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL TO GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A MAJOR EXTENSION TO EXISTING GLASSHOUSE PREMISES AT PAYNES LANE, NAZEING Paper E/447/16

The report was introduced by Stephen Wilkinson, Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships.

Some Members remarked that it would be in the best interests of the Authority to cease court action and to work with other stakeholders to lobby for changes to national Green Belt policy in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Whilst supporting the need to work with other stakeholders to lobby for changes to national Green Belt policy in the National Planning Policy Framework other Members considered that the merits of the Authority's case stood and that leave to appeal to the Supreme Court should be sought.

Vote on recommendations 1 and 2: 5 for and 3 against.

- (1) that no further court action is pursued by the Authority to challenge the decision of Epping Forest District Council to grant planning permission;**
- (2) officers write to Epping Forest District Council as Respondent and Valley Grown Nurseries as Interested Party informing that the Authority will not pursue further action challenging the decision; and**
- (3) the Authority seeks to work with Government and other stakeholders to lobby for changes to national Green Belt policy in the National Planning Policy Framework in order to clarify the position on large scale agricultural buildings in the Green Belt was approved.**

Chairman

Date

**ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
12 MAY 2016**

The meeting started at 1.33pm and ended at 2.33pm.