

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**AUTHORITY MEETING
17 OCTOBER 2019**

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Heather Johnson
David Andrews Christopher Kennedy
Derrick Ashley Graham McAndrew
Ken Ayling Valerie Metcalfe
John Bevan Gagan Mohindra (Deputy for Simon Walsh)
Frances Button Gordon Nicholson
Mike Garnett Nigel Quinton
Christine Hamilton Mary Sartin
Ross Houston John Wyllie

Apologies Received From: Osman Dervish, Ricki Gadsby, Denise Jones, Simon Walsh, Syd Stavrou, Claudia Webbe

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
Dan Buck - Head of Sport & Leisure
Cath Patrick - Conservation Manager
Stephen Bromberg - Head of Communications
Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
Alan Butler - Project Consultant
Alice Akillian - Solicitor
Justin Baker - Performance Officer
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present: Volker Glover - Mazars
David Rushton - Sports, Leisure and Culture Consultancy (SLC)

Part I

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2019 be approved and signed.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

14 WORK PROGRAMME: PROGRESS UPDATE

Paper A/4274/19

The report was introduced by the Chief Executive, including:

- the current plan is still to submit the planning application in November. Officers have met with the London Borough of Waltham Forest planners who are interested in the bigger picture for the Lea Bridge Road area. The Authority will be involved with this process along with other interested parties, but we will be making the Ice Centre planning application our priority. A meeting with the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Waltham Forest will be held to look at the political dimension;
- investigative works for The Wave at Picketts Lock have been concluded and we will have answers regarding contamination early next year. The campsite and the golf course are open once more. The Wave in Bristol will be opening early November and already has good bookings;
- officers are looking at a bigger site plan at Eton Manor alongside the hotel proposal and will bring to Members for discussion in the next couple of months;
- the Authority is in discussions with the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the 4 local Boroughs regarding the LLDC transition plan. The Authority has a significant interest in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP) in terms of land ownership and owning 2 venues. We are exploring the future role that the Authority might take on in relation in terms of park and venue management across QEOP. The Chief Executive and Chairman will be meeting with opposite numbers at LLDC in December, which will provide a good opportunity to engage in these discussions. We also hope to set up a Member session on this to help formulate our position and how we would like to proceed.

(1) the report; and

(2) the Chairman will write to the London Legacy Development Corporation Chair regarding its transition plan as set out in paragraph 25 of Paper A/4274/19 was noted.

15 BIODIVERSITY

The Conservation Manager gave a presentation, key points included:

- we have data agreements with Herts Environmental Records Centre, Greenspace Information for Greater London and Essex Wildlife Trust;
- survey work has been carried out at Cornmill Meadows for invertebrates and Stanstead Innings and Ryegate Farm for habitats;
- we have extended goat grazing to include the North Marsh on Cheshunt Marsh, it is sustainable management of SSSI grassland, important for orthoptera, volunteers check goats and fences and we have an interpretation panel installed;
- at Glen Faba we have created a reedbed on the northern shore, funded from S106 money for a development on Rattys Lane of £77k, this is the final year of the project;
- we have been part of the Barbel Species Action Plan Group, where we have undertaken Phase 1 restoration which includes monitoring, gravel jetting and installation of in-channel features. Phase 2 will commence 2019/20;
- the Biodiversity Action Plan has been printed, it was created in consultation with key stakeholders, attending partner meetings, setting key deliverables, and reporting;
- other S106 funding includes £100k for a bridge over the New River, where we will spend the money on River Lynch enhancement scheme which will be done in partnership with the Environment Agency; £250k for Cheshunt Lakeside which we will spend on habitats

adjacent to the development; £85k for National Grid Reinforcement Project which will be spent on management and restoration projects over the next 5 years;

- potential funding streams will come from the Highways Agency for Cobbins Brook where we hope to manage non-native species and habitat restoration for Water Voles and Otters;
- biodiversity deliverables for 2019-24 include externally funded projects, input into planning responses and Biodiversity Action Plan delivery.

A Member asked if crayfish were still a problem and if so what could be done about them. The Conservation Manager said that they were, but attempts to get rid of them often caused additional problems, such as population explosions from smaller crayfish and other species getting caught in traps.

A Member asked if we introduce species to the Park. The Conservation Manager replied that we work with the species that are already in the Park and help to enable their movements across the Park.

A Member asked what the cause was in delays to Section 106 monies from the Ratty's Lane development. The Conservation Manager replied that it was due to loss of staff at their end and that the Authority has received the money with interest.

16 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 23 January 2020 at 2.00pm at Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 9HG.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Members approved extending Ricki Gadsby's membership until January 2020, due to her recent ill health.
- A Member asked about the intrusion on land at Dobbs Weir and what the restoration costs were. Officers will email Members a response.

Cath Patrick left the meeting.

18 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
10	Leisure Services Contract Tender Process Update	3
11	Management Arrangements for the Non Leisure Services Contract Venues	3

The report was introduced by the Head of Sport & Leisure.

David Rushton of SLC informed Members that SLC have worked on over 15 local authority leisure contracts in the past few years and that the contract for the Authority is the most rigorous they have ever done. Should the Authority be challenged over which bidder it selects, it is in a strong position to resist on the basis of its scoring criteria and rigorous process. The contract going forward will be more robust than the current one.

Volker Glover of Mazars informed Members that in his opinion, all participants had been treated fairly with rigorous discussion from the evaluation panel, scoring robustly applied and all evaluators allowed full discussion. He believed that the selection process has been a fair and robust process.

A Member asked what would happen if the chosen bidder could not provide the finances to take the contract. The Head of Sport & Leisure responded that this will be picked up in the due diligence stage where they will be analysed by SLC. If there is a problem we can always go back to the other bidder, if both were unable to enter into the contract then we could manage for a period until a decision had been made as to how to move forward.

A Member asked about how we were able to fairly treat a big bidder and small bidder in regard to the investment proposals. The Director of Finance & Resources responded stating that the assessment of price was based on the variant bid, which included borrowing directly from the Authority, to deliver the investment proposals. The ability to borrow up to £10m to deliver the investment projects within the variant bid was open to both bidders and did not require either bidder to utilise their own financial resources. This removed any advantage a larger organisation may have had over a smaller organisation in investing in the new contract.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Head of Sport & Leisure and other officers involved along with Member engagement for the work that had been done on this.

Members were informed that the successful bidder would be notified immediately after the meeting and that after the standstill period was completed it would become public knowledge.

David Rushton and Volker Glover left the meeting.

- (1) the bidder progressing to the Preferred Bidder Stage as set out in paragraph 24 of Paper A/4275/19;**
- (2) the proposal relating to the new Ice Centre development as set out in paragraph 22 of Paper A/4275/19 was approved; and**
- (3) the next steps and associated timeline set out in paragraph 28 of Paper A/4275/19 was noted.**

The report was introduced by the Chief Executive.

The Chairman informed Members that a working group will look at the venues on an individual basis.

- (1) the option for the management of the non-Leisure Services Contract venues as set out in paragraph 10 of Paper A/4273/19 was approved.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.05pm and ended at 3.30pm.