

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2018

Members Present: Derrick Ashley (Chairman) Christopher Kennedy
 David Andrews Valerie Metcalfe
 Ken Ayling Gagan Mohindra (Deputy for Maggie McEwen)
 John Bevan Gordon Nicholson
 Frances Button Mary Sartin
 Mike Garnett Syd Stavrou
 Christine Hamilton Simon Walsh
 Ross Houston Keith Warnell
 Heather Johnson John Wyllie

Apologies Received From: Paul Osborn, Paul Douglas, Denise Jones, Maggie McEwen,
 David Lindsay, Rachel Tripp, Nigel Quinton, Claudia Webbe,
 Jill Whitehead

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
 Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
 Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
 Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
 Stephen Bromberg - Head of Communication
 Dan Buck - Heads of Sport & Leisure
 Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

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 5 July 2018 be approved and signed.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

14 2018/19 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the 2018/19 Work Programme, key points included:

- Major Events have included World Cup Hockey, Countryside Live, Holi Festival, Music Festivals and Cancer Race for Life half marathon.
- Community Access Fund – there is a range of activities for hard to reach groups; our outdoor learning programme has seen schools from 11 boroughs; in the last 2 ½ years 12,600 people from 262 community groups have been involved; impact studies are being carried out; and a film highlighting our achievements is being made.

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- Volunteering – 9000 hours have been worked in the last 6 months; new volunteering opportunities have been created; we are working in partnership with lots of other companies; we've had lots of corporate days; and our annual Volunteers Award Evening was held on 15 October.
- Almost Wild Camping – we are now open from March – September; this year 1226 people camped on the site; and we also had a wedding take place at the site.
- Ice Centre – we are looking at feasible options to replace the ice centre and a decision for a way forward should be reached by the end of next year.
- Picketts Lock – We are looking at redeveloping the Golf Centre and camping site. We are currently agreeing Head of Terms with a prospective developer and plan to create an iconic, regional facility which is in keeping with the rest of the Regional Park.
- Odeon Cinema at Picketts Lock – the cinema has received £5 million refurbishment by Odeon and London Metric.
- Eton Manor – Hockey & Tennis Centre are under used, hoping to activate the site and add value to the Olympic Park, such as adding visitor accommodation. We are currently starting a soft marketing campaign to see what market interest there is.
- Leisure Services Contract Procurement – We will be looking to secure a 10 year contract from April 2020 with the option to increase it by a further 5 years. We will be focusing on quality not just price and will be looking to protect our reputation and major assets. We have already had early market interest. We will be having competitive procurement by negotiation. In November we will start the OJEU process and the ITT will start in March, with a decision made by October 2019.
- Service Reviews – We have reviewed the Parks Management and made savings. We have also reviewed the Myddelton House Visitor Centre and decided to allow the Trust to manage it.
- There will be a new 10 year Biodiversity Action Plan, with investment for the Bittern Information Point already approved by Members.
- Stakeholder Engagement – We have many major events coming up where we will work to engage with stakeholders.
- Six Month Budget Performance – the end of year estimate is currently £250k over budget due to the Ice Centre closure in 2017/18 and the car parking income shortfall. We may be able to rectify this with a possible VAT windfall, a ratings appeal for Velopark and Hockey & Tennis Centre and the 2019/20 budget and medium term plan.

A Member asked how officers were looking to minimise the shortfall. The Chief Executive said that they were looking for savings and taking advice of the Director of Finance & Resources.

A Member asked how Countryside Live worked this year during the week rather than the weekend and a closed event only for schools rather than the general public. The Head of Sport & Leisure replied that it had been a success and we had more children from the region rather than locals.

Members were keen to help with stakeholder events. It was agreed that Members should keep themselves up to date on what is happening around the Park so that they are well informed when they do meet stakeholders.

The Chairman informed Members that the Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships was looking at getting a range of potential projects that we would like to see happen in the Park, so that when S106 opportunities arose we would already have an idea of how we would like the money spent.

Simon Sheldon left the meeting.

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15 VOLUNTEERS STRATEGY AND VOLUNTEERS POLICY

Paper A/4262/18

The Head of Parklands introduced the report and explained to Members that we now have more volunteers who are working more hours.

A Member queried how we monitor what hours volunteers are working. The Head of Parklands responded stating that we have an electronic management system on which volunteers log their own hours, and at events or in the countryside then the officer will monitor hours.

A Member pointed out that there were a few instances of the word 'serve' and suggested that the word 'assist' would sound better.

A Member suggested that it might be useful to a wellbeing survey, as volunteering has many benefits for those involved and those benefits may help to promote more volunteers becoming involved.

Members discussed the reasons for why we don't have more volunteers from ethnic minorities and a Member suggested that we might be able to reach them via Members own councils.

A Member suggested that on page 13 of the policy under 'Policy Objectives', the grammar should be changed and 'ing' should be added to many of the words.

It was agreed that the Head of Parklands and the Chairman of the Authority be delegated to make any minor textual amendments discussed today.

- (1) adoption of the draft Volunteers Policy as set out at Appendix A to Paper E/578/18; and**
- (2) adoption of the draft Volunteers Strategy as set out at Appendix B to Paper E/578/18 was approved.**

16 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 17 January 2019 at 2.00pm at Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 9HG.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 2.45pm.