

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES
24 SEPTEMBER 2015**

To: Ross Houston (Chairman) Gordon Nicholson
Gwyneth Deakins Lyn White
Derek Levy (Deputy for Christine Hamilton)

Apologies Received From: Stephen Carr, Christine Hamilton, Mary Sartin

In Attendance: David Andrews, Heather Johnson, Gerry Lyons, Graham McAndrews

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
Stephen Wilkinson - Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Paul Coates - Sports Development Manager
Matthew Ewings - Cycling Development Officer
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present: Liam Mulrooney from London Borough of Enfield
Mark Bland from London Borough of Waltham Forest
Trevor Mason from Hertfordshire County Council
Brian Daley from Lee Valley Leisure Trust

Part I

107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	<i>Prejudicial</i> ✓
<i>Derek Levy</i>	5	<i>Member helping to create the manifesto for Mini-Holland scheme at London Borough of Enfield</i>	<i>Non-Pecuniary</i>

108 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2015 be approved and signed.

109 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

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110 CYCLING REVIEW – STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS

Hertfordshire County Council

Trevor Mason, Safe & Sustainable Journeys Manager from Hertfordshire County Council gave a presentation on cycling, key points included:

- Trevor's team work on cycle training, school and commuter travel, promoting the benefits of cycling, pool bikes for Hertfordshire county council and cycle parking at train stations.
- The main objectives of his team are to reduce congestion on the roads, reduce air pollution and to improve public health.
- To achieve these objectives they have received a number of grants from Hertfordshire County Council sustainable transport budget, Public Health, Bikeability, DfT and district funding.
- They have been involved in a number of events to promote cycling, such as the Tour of Hertfordshire Series.
- They have produced a map which details traffic free routes for cycling across the county.
- Medium term opportunities include a cycle referral scheme, linking with schools and after school clubs, led cycle rides and cycle hubs.

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

- Members expressed their concerns over cyclists using the tow paths, especially creating fast routes on the tow paths, as this would conflict with other users. Many cyclists are inconsiderate on the tow paths even though pedestrians have the right of way. Members were also concerned that where there was not room for wider paths to accommodate fast routes for cyclists, then hedge rows may be destroyed. Trevor replied stating that the width of tow paths varied, individual areas would need to be assessed to see whether fast routes were appropriate and that more work was needed in educating cyclists on avoiding conflicts.
- It was agreed that the Authority and Hertfordshire County Council could work together in promoting cycling, with routes through the Park being included in the map which Hertfordshire County Council has produced, cycle hubs and working with schools.

David Andrews, Graham McAndrew and Gordon Nicholson left the meeting.

London Borough of Waltham Forest

Mark Bland, Programme Manager for Mini-Holland from London Borough of Waltham Forest gave a presentation on cycling, key points included:

- Mark has been working on the £27 million funded Mini-Holland scheme, with a delivery programme of 2017.

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- Some of the key projects for the Mini-Holland proposals in Waltham Forest include Lea Bridge Road – A Street for Everyone, Walthamstow town centre and villages, and creating a network of cycling routes and cycle hubs.
- They are working to create Quietway cycle routes which connect up to central London.
- Some of the objectives of the Mini-Holland scheme are to provide a network of direct joined up cycle routes; safer streets for bikes; more people travelling by bike; a better balance of movement.
- Opportunities for increasing cycling in the Park might include connecting communities to the Park; cycle parking at stations; mapping and wayfinding; accessible routes and network connectivity; cycle training centres.

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

- A Member asked whether they would be able to meet the delivery programme of 2017. Mark responded stating that it was tight, with one of the main issues being obtaining permissions from Network Rail.
- A Member asked if they would be connecting their cycle routes with neighbouring boroughs such as Redbridge. Mark responded stating that connecting to Redbridge was on the programme for next year.
- It was agreed that the Authority and Waltham Forest could work together to increase opportunities for cycling as outlined in the discussion.

London Borough of Enfield

Liam Mulrooney, Group Leader for Traffic, Road Safety and Parking from London Borough of Enfield gave a presentation on cycling, key points included:

- London Borough of Enfield is also involved in the Mini-Holland scheme, which is running alongside their existing Cycle Enfield scheme.
- Their aim is to make the borough as cycle friendly as the Dutch equivalents and to transform public realms.
- They hope to work with the Authority to create good quality cycle links into the Park and to encourage both cycling and walking.
- They are funding the creation of new cycle networks by TfL and Section 106 payments.
- They have held events such as the Inclusive Cycling Scheme to encourage more people to give cycling a go.

The Chairman thanked Liam for this presentation. Members considered the following points further:

- A Member noted that many of their cycle networks were mixed routes. Liam responded stating that where there is room and on main roads they hoped to keep cyclists separated, however in some instances such as tow paths there isn't room or it is not in keeping with the character of the area.

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- Their scheme is aimed at those not already cycling, they hope that a range of cyclists both young and old will change the culture of cycling and so change behaviours. They also hope to encourage more local trips by bike.
- The Chairman asked how the Park could link up with Mini-Holland. Mark Bland suggested that a workshop with those involved with the project, where potential routes could be discussed.
- Members agreed that there were two different categories of cyclists; those cycling for leisure reasons and those cycling for commuting.
- It was agreed that the Authority and Enfield could work together to increase opportunities for cycling as outlined in the discussion and that the suggestion of a workshop was worth considering.

Gerry Lyons left the meeting.

Lee Valley Leisure Trust

Brian Daley, Director of Venues (South) from Lee Valley Leisure Trust gave a presentation on cycling, key points included:

- The Lee Valley Velopark is one of the best cycling facilities in the country.
- Sponsorship with Cycle Surgery has been reinvested back into cycling in the Park.
- The Lee Valley Leisure Trust is making the Olympics Legacy work to their advantage with outreach work such as the Schools Festival.
- They would like to create cycle hubs, especially at the campsites and facilities such as the Lee Valley White Water Centre.
- The Velodrome will be hosting major cycling events and championships, which help to promote sports development and raises the profile of the Park.

The Chairman thanked Brian for his presentation. The Chairman then requested that Members hear the presentation from the Sports Development team and then discuss both items together.

Derek Levy and Liam Mulrooney left the meeting.

110 LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – CYCLING SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The Sports Development Manager and the Cycling Development Officer gave Members a presentation on the work being undertaken to extend participation of cycling to all groups in the community, key points included:

- There has been a £10.5 million return on investment from Sport England.
- There is a 5 year Legacy Cycling Development Plan to 2018, with a combination of venue based activity and outreach engagement programmes.
- There are specific targets for all cycling disciplines and over 160,000 attendances each year.
- Cycling development projects include the Muslim Ladies Cycling programme; 2016 World Track Cycling Legacy Project; Tandem Pilot Project and Park wide cycling development with events and cycle routes.

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The Chairman thanked Paul and Matt for their presentation. Members considered further both the Sports Development team and the Lee Valley Leisure Trust's presentations further:

- A Member asked if it would be possible to expand the outreach programmes into other London Boroughs, especially the Muslim Ladies Cycling Programme. Paul Coates responded stating that this is something he would be very interested in doing and we had the funding in place to do that.
- Brian Daley explained that after observing how Manchester and Glasgow Velodromes operated, especially for day time use, the decision was made to do much of the coaching ourselves at the Velodrome, thereby preventing clubs from dominating the user time on the tracks.

The Chairman requested that for the next Scrutiny Committee meeting a report be written, capturing all the information from today's meeting and from the previous meeting in June, looking in particular at joint working with schools, cycle hubs and hire, signage and mapping, joining up cycle routes, issues around separation of cycle routes and pedestrians, looking at the possibility of a workshop with other bodies to discuss linking routes/connectivity and joint funding and promotion.

111 OTHER PROJECTS FOR THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman asked for Members to consider other projects for the Scrutiny Committee to consider. Suggestions so far had been:

- To investigate the Schools Festival programmes at the Lee Valley White Water Centre, Velopark and Hockey & Tennis Centre to discover if these events are bringing children back into the Park and whether the Community Access Fund was working.
- To investigate whether we are using our land productively.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 4.30pm.