

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 19 JANUARY 2017

Members Present:

Paul Osborn (Chairman)	John Knapman
David Andrews	Gerry Lyons
Derrick Ashley	Graham McAndrew
Ken Ayling (Deputy for Lyn White)	Sarah McDermott
John Bevan	Maggie McEwen
Stephen Carr	Valerie Metcalfe
Malcolm Cowan	Gordon Nicholson
Gwyneth Deakins	Mary Sartin
Nick Draper	Alan Searing
Zuber Gulamussen	Alan Smith
Christine Hamilton	Syd Stavrou
Denise Jones	Mari Stevenson (Deputy for Linda Haysey)
Christopher Kennedy	Simon Walsh

Apologies Received From: Linda Haysey, Heather Johnson, Ross Houston, Lyn White

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
Stephen Bromberg	- Head of Communications
Stephen Roberts	- Head of Property
Dan Buck	- Head of Sport & Leisure
Cath Patrick	- Senior Conservation Office
Sandra Bertschin	- Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson	- Committee Services Officer

Also Present:

Eric Reynolds	- Urban Space Management
John Burton	- Urban Space Management
Jade Appleton	- London Councils

6 x Members of the Public

Part I

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	<i>Prejudicial</i> ✓
<i>John Bevan</i>	-	<i>Trustee of Lee Valley Leisure Trust</i>	<i>Non-Pecuniary</i>
<i>Sarah McDermott</i>	-	<i>Member of Wandle Valley Regional Park</i>	<i>Non-Pecuniary</i>
<i>Nick Draper</i>	-	<i>Member of Wandle Valley Regional Park</i>	<i>Non-Pecuniary</i>
<i>Denise Jones</i>	<i>Item 6</i>	<i>Member of Trinity Buoy Wharf</i>	<i>Non-Pecuniary</i>

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES 19 JANUARY 2017

<i>Malcom Cowan</i>	-	<i>Trust Daughter works for London Borough of Waltham Forest</i>	<i>Non-Pecuniary</i>
<i>Chris Kennedy</i>	<i>Item 4</i>	<i>Knows the public speakers</i>	<i>Non-Pecuniary</i>

19 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 be approved and signed.

20 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Abigale Woodman, representing Save Lea Marshes Group, speaking on Agenda Item 8:

- Reject the proposed Land and Property Strategy.
- The approach taken by officers to dispose of a specific piece of land at your meeting next week is flawed.
- This strategy is seeking the authorisation to sell off land without indication as to which land is being referred to.
- It appears that this strategy has been designed to sell off land around the Waterworks.
- Under the Park Act you are able to draw funds from the precept, to borrow, make charges and receive contributions to capital facilities. To go against this funding model is against the principles upon which the Park was established. If you cannot afford to build a new ice centre without selling off recreational land for development, then currently a new ice centre is outside of your means.
- The Lee Valley Regional Park is here as a green lung for London, all Members have a duty to uphold this.
- Section 12 of the Park Act states that your role is to preserve the Park as a place of leisure, recreation, sport etc and Section 21 of the Park Act says that you can sell land no longer required, yet you are being authorised to dispose of land which still fulfils these functions.
- At no point during the consultations about a new ice centre was anyone told that it would be funded by selling off recreational land, calling into question the validity and integrity of the consultation.
- A justification for closing the Waterworks was that it is underused; however it is only underused because those managing it allowed it to be run into the ground.
- Selling Metropolitan Open Land for housing will damage the reputation of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.
- Over 4000 people have signed a petition against these plans.
- You will also be setting a dangerous precedent if you want to oppose developments inside the Park boundary in the future.
- Along with rejecting the Land & Property Strategy today, I would also ask that you reject London Borough of Waltham Forest's plan to rezone an area of Leyton Marshes for housing at your meeting on 26 January.

Claire Weiss speaking as a resident of Leyton and a representative of Mark House Corner and Lea Bridge Residents Association on Agenda Item 8:

- I support the ice centre expansion and I would like to see it retained within the borders of Waltham Forest.

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES 19 JANUARY 2017

- The Waterworks is still required and appropriate and it should not be discarded for unconnected reasons.
- This site is located on a flood plain, which could mean misery for future residents if housing is allowed and could also mean expensive construction methods, making it unlikely that there will be any affordable housing.
- Review how you use the land. London Borough of Waltham Forest have just given the go ahead for housing development at 97 Lea Bridge Road which is on the doorstep of the Waterworks, giving you a new customer base.
- The Park Development Framework shouldn't stand in the way of making an informed decision. The Land and Property Strategy won't do you or London Borough of Waltham Forest any favors.

The Chairman informed the Members and the public speakers that the Land & Property Strategy does not give permission to dispose of land as any decisions would have to come to the Authority board to make a decision.

The Chairman agreed to consider Agenda Item 6 next.

21 SS ROBIN AT EAST INDIA DOCK BASIN

Founding Director of Urban Space Management, Eric Reynolds, gave a presentation about proposals for siting SS Robin at East India Dock Basin, key points included:

- It is the oldest surviving steam powered coasting ship, built at Orchard Wharf, just 150m away from East India Dock Basin (EIDB).
- We propose to relocate it to EIDB, with the costs of the move, management and maintenance to be underwritten by Urban Space Management.
- Our objectives are to mark the important heritage of ship building and dock activity in the area; provide a focus and attraction to EIDB; add value to the Lea Way link to the Olympic Park; and to respect and avoid disturbance to the wildlife.
- Our proposed position would give it a powerful presence on the river and be visible from the O2, DLR and Canary Wharf.
- Urban Space Management have been involved in creating interesting places for 40 years; are a private sector developer, operator and consultant; and have been working on the Trinity Buoy Wharf Project.
- Trinity Buoy Wharf was previously used for buoy manufacturing; it is now currently used for arts and performance venue and workspaces for creative uses; it has generated 515 jobs; investment in the site was £4 million; and it sees 40,000 visitors per year with many historic, restored boats available to view there.
- We have had a pre-application meeting with LBTHs in regard to having SS Robin at EIDB; agreement from HLF; appointed engineers and heritage consultants and are in consultation with crane companies.
- Our next steps involve reaching an agreement with LVRPA; make a planning application; produce method statements; agree a timetable; and complete the management agreement and lease.

Whilst members saw the positive opportunities of the proposed scheme several expressed concerns over the peacefulness and biodiversity of the site being disturbed, considering that it was an important quality of this location in an over-crowded part of East London.

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES 19 JANUARY 2017

Eric Reynolds and John Burton left the meeting.

22 2017/18 REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY

Paper A/4236/17

The Director of Finance & Resources introduced the report, highlighting the following key points:

- Members have been given 2 options for the levy. Option 1 recommends a 6% reduction in levy; whilst Option 2 recommends a 2% reduction.
- The Executive Committee agreed a reduction of 6%.
- There has been a 12% cash reduction since 2011/12, charging 45% of maximum chargeable amount.
- Reducing the levy by either 6% or 2% there will be a balanced budget if target savings are achieved; current assumptions mean that an annual reserve balance of over £4 million is maintained throughout the currently estimated medium term financial plan; medium term financial plan under both options will provide a balanced budget subject to the assumptions made and the achievement of the income/savings set out.

Members who favoured Option 1 argued that we need to take account of the economic climate, where local authorities are having to make cuts and that if we are seen to be becoming more self-sufficient then it is less likely that they might try to legally extract themselves from paying for the levy. They also argued that 6% would be a balanced budget; we would be able to continue to perform our statutory duties without risk and was a reasonable direction of travel.

Members who favoured Option 2 argued that the yearly contribution per tax payer would be 88p per year a barely noticeable amount and that the extra money could be spent on improving the Park. We have driven down the levy over the years and now we are charging less than half what we are legally entitled to do, by reducing by 2% we are still reducing the burden on local authorities.

Members voted on Option 1 or Option 2:

Option 1: 16

Option 2: 10

- (1) a proposed levy for 2017/18 of £10.187 million (6% reduction);**
- (2) additional net income and savings as set out in Appendix B1 to Paper E/477/17 (including the continued introduction of car parking charges across sites identified and covered in more detail in Appendix H to Paper E/477/17);**
- (3) financing for the capital programme and revenue contribution to capital of £1.3m as set out in paragraph 22 of Paper E/477/17;**
- (4) a net revenue budget of £10.187m (option 1) or £10.620m (option 2) as set out in paragraph 31 of Paper E/477/17; and**
- (5) a minimum level of reserves of £4m be maintained as set out in paragraph 30 of Paper E/477/17 was approved.**

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES 19 JANUARY 2017

Syd Stavrou left the meeting.

23 NATIONAL SCHEME FOR AUDITOR APPOINTMENTS Paper A/4235/17

The Director of Finance & Resources introduced the report.

Members agreed that this is the approach that most local authority Audit Committees are taking as it looks more transparent to the general public.

(1) to opt into the scheme was approved.

24 DRAFT CORPORATE LAND AND PROPERTY STRATEGY Paper A/4237/17

The Director of Corporate Services introduced the report.

The Chairman informed Members that this Strategy had gone through a long process of Member Working Group, site visits and sign off from the Executive Committee. Any acquisition or disposal of land would be considered individually by the Authority board based on Section 12 of the Park Act. The Vice Chairman reiterated that this Strategy has been long overdue as in the past we have purchased land on an ad hoc basis; this Strategy reflects our responsibilities under the Park Act.

(1) the proposed Corporate Land and Property Strategy attached as Appendix A to Paper A/4237/17 was approved.

25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be an Additional Authority meeting on 26 January 2017 at 2pm at Myddelton House.

26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Head of Communications updated Members on the progress of the 50th Anniversary preparations, key points included:

- Next month we will be taking forward ideas and meeting the Lee Valley Leisure Trust board.
- We will be meeting with radios, media contacts.
- The new 50th Anniversary logo will be on website shortly.
- We have commissioned a book on the history of the Park, by London School of Economics, Tony Travers; the book will give a sense of the historic place in region and what would have happened if the Lee Valley Park had not been created.
- Working with partners such as Walthamstow Wetlands.
- Increase connections with better walking and cycling routes.
- Looking at giving free access to venues.
- Staff engagement.
- Launching new products such as milk sales, wild camping, and bush craft.
- Schools travel bursary scheme.
- VIP visit at the White Water Centre schools festival.

**AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
19 JANUARY 2017**

- A new piece of parkland opening.
- Determining progress, and drafting a budget at the next Working Group meeting.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 3.10pm.