

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES
23 FEBRUARY 2017**

To: Ross Houston (Chairman) Mary Sartin
 Stephen Carr (Vice Chairman) Alan Smith
 Gwyneth Deakins Syd Stavrou
 Gordon Nicholson

Apologies Received From: Christine Hamilton, Lyn White

Also Present: David Andrews

Officers Present: Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
 Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
 Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
 Vince Donaldson - Senior Contracts & Quality Manager
 Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present: Nigel Foxall - Head of Performance, Lee Valley Leisure Trust

Part I

131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

132 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

133 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

134 Prior to the meeting, Members of the Scrutiny Committee had an informal discussion regarding possible future topics for the Scrutiny Committee to look at, where they agreed the following:

- Holyfield Farm – looking at what the farm currently does; ways it could diversify; and how market trends affect the business.
- Canal & River Trust – looking at moorings; tow paths; and signage.
- Management of Parklands – looking at how rangers and officers care for the flora and fauna; and what issues they face.

Alan Smith and David Andrews arrived during the next item.

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135 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2016/17 Q3

Paper S/38/17

The report was introduced by the Senior Contracts & Quality Manager who highlighted the Authority's achievements in Q3. The Chairman praised the work of officers especially with the success of London in Bloom and Quest. The Chairman was also impressed by the achievement of over 7 million visitors and suggested that this should be publicised.

A Member queried how savings in staff, vets bills and feed had been achieved at Holyfield Farm. The Head of Parklands responded stating that staff bills had been reduced due to only milking twice a day as opposed to three times. They are being more proactive with the health care of the cattle, resulting in fewer vet bills. They have also increased the grazing by another 50 acres which has reduced the cost in feed.

Members were informed that complaints had gone up, this was due to Broxbourne Borough Council falsely stating that car parking charges would be beginning in December and blocks being added to Waltham Abbey Gardens to prevent larger vehicles from entering.

Members were informed that whilst we were not subject to the Freedom of Information legislation, we had chosen to adopt it and that we rarely ever get more than 12 Freedom of Information requests per year. A Member suggested that it would be helpful to have a table to view requests that had been made.

Members were informed that the information regarding the staff satisfaction was from a survey 3 years ago. A new staff satisfaction survey had recently been completed and the results were being collated. A Member suggested that it would be useful to have the date of the survey on the scorecard so they would know how current the information was.

Members were informed that the usage figures obtained from the WaterWorks came from counters on the building, bridge to the filter beds and the entrance to the wildlife gardens. A Member suggested that these counts should be separated as it gave a false impression of usage at the WaterWorks.

A Member suggested the possibility of introducing a nominal charge for people going to the Riding Centre just to look at the horses, with the money generated used to help the riding for the disabled.

(1) the report was noted.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 2.50pm.