

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES 25 JUNE 2020

Members in remote attendance:	John Bevan (Chairman) Ken Ayling Mike Garnett	Gordon Nicholson Nigel Quinton John Wyllie
Officers in remote attendance:	Shaun Dawson Beryl Foster Jon Carney Dan Buck Victoria Yates Vince Donaldson Sandra Bertschin	- Chief Executive - Deputy Chief Executive - Corporate Director - Corporate Director - Head of HR - Senior Contracts & Quality Manager - Committee & Members' Services Manager
Also present in remote attendance:	Vicky Sholund – Save Lea Marshes	

Part I

182 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

183 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2020 be approved and signed.

184 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

185 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2019/20 Q

Paper S/57/20

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

In response to questions from Members it was advised:

- generation of the customer satisfaction score included 2,550 face to face surveys undertaken last year;
- the Parklands team carried vacancies in the quieter period of the year to generate savings but these vacancies were filled for the busier summer season;
- solar power was not suitable for car park charging systems, i.e. cameras and payment machines;
- the use of cameras at fly-tipping hot spots had proved unsuccessful due to vandalism; and
- the decrease in website hits was due to a number of factors including that the major events held last year were not as substantial as those held in the previous year, and

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less social media activity by Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd. Recently the Authority has engaged in considerable social media activity in relation to Covid-19 and the misuse of open spaces.

(1) the report was noted.

186 OPEN SPACES MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Corporate Director gave an oral update, including:

- open spaces have been very busy during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- the Ranger team continues to be supported by up to 130 volunteers and honorary wardens undertaking litter picking, cattle checking, monitoring of species lists and fishery bailiffs, as well as contractors and extra patrols by ParkGuard;
- despite increased resources, litter issues remain as unofficial mass overnight gatherings generate excessive litter which then has to be cleared the next day. Further resources are available with 24 hours notice should the Rangers consider additional support is required;
- car parks were closed during weekends and Bank Holidays in line with other open space bodies but are now fully open;
- toilet blocks remain closed as given the age and remote location of these it is proving difficult to find a safe way for them to be reopened;
- all options to reduce littering were being considered including benchmarking with pan-London open spaces bodies. The Authority's current approach was a tactful and rounded public education campaign; and
- the Authority's Bylaws did not permit officers to issue penalty notices for littering.

The Chief Executive commented that the Authority had to manage its resources within a very constrained financial position.

187 UPDATE ON STAFF FURLOUGH

The Chief Executive and Head of HR gave an oral update, including:

- around 60% (167 staff) have been furloughed, mainly from Head Office and venues. No open spaces staff had been furloughed;
- funding from the furlough scheme helps to offset some of the Authority's lost income due to the pandemic;
- directly contracted staff on furlough were receiving 100% of their salary and casual staff on furlough were receiving 80% of their average pay;
- subject to further Government announcements it was hoped to open some indoor venues in August;
- some outside activities such as fishing, golf and elite training had already recommenced;
- in reopening venues the Authority was adopting a cautious and considered approach and activities would only resume if there was a clear business case for doing so to safeguard the Authority's financial position;
- some furloughed staff would be returning in July ready for venues reopening;
- there were a variety of mechanisms to keep in touch with furloughed staff including, group emails, WhatsApp groups, communications to all staff, the intranet, e-learning modules and line managers were making contact with their direct reports.

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The Chairman advised that the review of Office Accommodation had been temporarily paused given the current situation and would be resumed as soon as possible.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 2.55pm