
LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 13 March 2019 from 7.30pm to 8.15.

Councillors present:

Councillors Chris Lloyd (Lead Member Leisure)	Alex Michaels (Lead Member Environmental Services)
Roger Seabourne (Lead Member Community Safety and Partnerships)	David Sansom
Diana Barber (substitute for Cllr Rupert Barnes)	Alison Scarth
Sara Bedford (substitute for Cllr Kate Turner)	Alison Wall
Donna Duncan	Phil Williams

Officers:

Geof Muggeridge – Director of Community and Environmental Services
Charlotte Gomes – Leisure Development Manager
Ray Figg – Head of Community Services
Andy Stovold – Head of Community Partnerships
Temitope Opeyemi – Finance Manager
Sherrie Ralton - Committee Manager
Sally Riley – Assistant Finance Manager

Councillor Roger Seabourne in the Chair

LEC 49/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rupert Barnes (Councillor Diana Barber Substitute), Kate Turner (Councillor Sara Bedford Substitute) and Stephen King.

LEC 50/18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record

LEC 51/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman ruled that the following items of business had not been available 5 clear working days before the meeting but were of sufficient urgency for the following reasons:

ITEM 9 SERVICE PLANNING 2019/20. To ensure the service plan could be progressed and recommended to council on 21 May.

ITEM 10 SERIOUS VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK, STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS – APPENDICES TO THE REPORT. To ensure the action plans could be progressed and implemented.

LEC 52/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

LEISURE

LEC 53/18 PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 18

The Committee received a petition which had received 332 signatures. The petition asked the Council to

Save our Steps – Footpath 11, Steps entering Long Valley Wood Woodland steps should be retained. Steps have been in situ here for over 30 years and are highly valued, very well used and provide an important access point to the woods and numerous woodland pathways (as evidenced in the Public Enquiry for Village Green Status – registered by HCC in September 2007).

In accordance with Council Procedural Rule 18, the Lead petitioner, Mrs Amanda Grant, presented the petition to the Committee and addressed the meeting.

Mrs Grant was thanked along with everyone who signed the petition. The revised Draft Management Plan shows that the steps would be replaced within year one.

RESOLVED:

The petition be accepted. The Lead Petitioner be written to in acknowledgement of the submission.

LEC 54/18 DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR RICKMANSWORTH AQUADROME LNR, CROXLEYHALL WOODS, SOUTH OXHEY PLAYING FIELDS AND THE WITHEY BEDS LNR

To provide to the Committee, for approval, details of the draft management plans for Rickmansworth Aquadrome Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Croxleyhall Woods, South Oxhey Playing Fields and The Withey Beds LNR

Public consultation had been carried out and the summary of comments received provided for each of the management plans together with any appropriate suggested amendments.

The following comments and questions were received:

Aquadrome: The Aquadrome plan shows a flat over the café that a member of staff has use of. Members would like to know where that is shown in the accounts. The Head of Community Services to provide a written response as to where it sits in the budget.

Post Meeting Note: *The Head of Community Services confirmed that there is a flat over the toilet block. This accommodates a member of the ground maintenance staff and the agreement which has been in place since 2010 is renewed on an annual basis. The occupant is responsible for paying Council tax and all water, gas and electricity consumed on or supplied to the Property during the period of their occupation. Payment for utilities is shown on budget line 1489/B0202 and equates to circa £55.00 per month.*

The occupant is required to carry out additional responsibilities such as the locking of the Aquadrome gates and toilets at the set time and responding to minor maintenance issues and callouts within Three Rivers if required.

Croxley Hall Woods: Members asked if the old steps could remain in place until the replacement steps are built. Also could the wood from the existing steps be re-cycled.

The Head of Community Services said they would try to ensure the steps remain in place until work commences. Councillors, Parish Councillors and Residents Associations would be advised when the work would commence, along with notices at the site and also updates on Three Rivers Web Pages. Officers would look into how the wood could be recycled but he could not confirm at present.

South Oxhey Playing Fields: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 35(b) Mr Andrew Beck spoke against the Management Plan due to any impact on the parkrun.

A Member thanked Mr Beck for his comments and advised that no work would take place without consultation with the Run Director of the parkrun.

Withey Beds: A Member advised there would be tours of the Withey Beds during Rickmansworth Week and that any volunteers would be gratefully received.

The Chairman moved that the report be approved by the Committee and

That the draft management plans for Rickmansworth Aquadrome LNR, Croxleyhall Woods, South Oxhey Playing Fields and The Withey Beds be adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the report and

That the draft management plans for Rickmansworth Aquadrome LNR, Croxleyhall Woods, South Oxhey Playing Fields and The Withey Beds be adopted.

LEC 55/18 RICKMANSWORTH PARK PLAY AREA

The purpose of this report was to assess whether or not Rickmansworth Park would be a suitable location for a play area. In addition the report considered use of S106 funds for additional play facilities within Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

Members thanked the Officers for their hard work on this but agreed that they would have to go with the agencies recommendations, although it was disappointing.

The Chairman moved that the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee reject the proposal to install a play area at Rickmansworth Park, for the reasons detailed at points 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 and

That the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee agree to use the Section 106 funds, detailed at point 2.8 to install an additional play space in the dog-free picnic area at Rickmansworth Aquadrome, during the financial year 2019/20.

RESOLVED:

The Leisure, Environment and Community Committee reject the proposal to install a play area at Rickmansworth Park, for the reasons detailed at points 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 and

That the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee agree to use the Section 106 funds, detailed at point 2.8 to install an additional play space in the dog-free picnic area at Rickmansworth Aquadrome, during the financial year 2019/20.

LEC 56/18 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (PERIOD 10 JANUARY)

The report had already been presented to the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2019 which sought approval to a change in the Council's 2018 - 2022 medium-term financial plan.

The following comments were made:

On page 10 Medium Term Revenue Budget by Committee, Environmental Health – Residential Team. Original Budget of £95,000, Revised Budget £75,000, Spend to Date £121,000, Members required clarification on these figures. The Finance Manager to provide a written response.

Post Meeting Note: *The revised budget takes account of vacancies in the team during the year, which equates to a £20,000 favourable variance from the original budget. The spend to date (at the end of January) does not include the recharge of £94,000 to the DFG capital budget which will take place at the end of the year. In addition, the spend to date includes a credit accrual of £27,000 brought forward from the previous year in relation to ICT IDOX software, where a suppliers invoice is awaited to offset this.*

Abbots Langley Project Original Budget £40,000, Revised Budget ££40,000, Spent to Date £231,000. The Leisure Development Manager advised that this budget was funded from Revenue from S106, therefore all the money would be offset at the end of the financial year.

The Committee asked for additional information to be included in the notes in future to provide clarification. The Chairman reminded Members where possible to provide questions in advance of meetings so Officers can provide an immediate response.

A Member queried the whereabouts of £50,000 allocated to a hockey pitch that was not able to go ahead. Due to the rail link not happening, money had been allocated to be spent on Cassiobridge play area due to health and safety concerns of the existing site – this had been agreed by the committee at a previous meeting.

A Member asked what the plans were in place for the £4,200 Public Convenience Budget, Spend to date of £500. The Head of Community Services advised that reminders had been sent out to all organisations who are part of the Council's Community Toilet Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

LEC 57/18 SERVICE PLANNING 2019/2022

That the Committee considered the following service plans:

- Environmental Protection
- Leisure and Landscapes
- Regulatory Services (Please note only the unshaded areas of Performance Indicators)
- Community Partnerships

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee considers the Environmental Protection Service Plan, Leisure and Landscapes Service Plan and Regulatory Services Service Plan and Community Partnerships Service Plan and recommends their content to Council at its meeting on 21 May 2018.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIPS

LEC 58/18 SERIOUS VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK, STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS

The Committee was asked to endorse the Public Health Framework, Strategy and Action Plans for Serious Violence and Exploitation of the Local Strategic Partnership

The Head of Community Partnerships gave the following updates:

The Appendices had been late as the consultation process was being completed.

Paragraph 2.5.1 – A bid on behalf of all 10 Community Safety Partnerships for £140,000 had been successful. That was match funded by the 10 District and Borough Councils, and match funding from the Adult Safeguarding Board, Children's Safeguarding Board and Public Health

Paragraph 2.5.2/3 - The decision for these would be made on Monday 18 March because the remaining bids to the Police and Crime Commissioner exceeded the budget for next year.

Paragraph 2.12 - The LSP had agreed to adopt the Framework, Strategy and Action plan at its meeting that morning.

Paragraph 6.3 - The LSP had agreed the establishment of a Community Interest Company (CIC) at its meeting that morning.

The following comments were received:

A Member told the Committee how setting up CIC to obtain funding had received support from the two Housing Associations, the PCC Office and Mind. Five Directors are required for good governance of a CIC.

Around the categorisation of crime as a public health issue not a criminal issue. We need to be looking into early intervention into substance abuse and other issues in order to prevent them escalating into violent crimes.

A Member advised at the Local Strategic Partnership meeting the Representative of Police Crime Commissioners Office referred to the SOS bid as an exceptional piece of work to get 10 Districts on board to produce a bid like that. Also HCC said TRDC were streets ahead of other District Councils. The Head of Community Partnerships was thanked for all the work.

A Member asked whether work was taking place with Primary Schools. The Head of Community Partnerships advised that there was a specific programme in partnership with Watford Community Safety Partnership and Hertsmere. They had set up a panel that accepted referrals from any agency for anyone up to the age of 25. Chessbrook Education Support Centre had funded PCSOs to work within schools in the SW Herts area. They were looking at contextual Safeguarding work. In more difficult situations the Anti-Social Behaviour panel were able to intervene.

The Chairman moved the recommendation for the Committee to endorse the LSP Board's Public Health Framework, Strategy and Action Plans for Serious Violence and Exploitation and

For officers to share the performance management of the Strategy and Action Plan through the Members Information Bulletin.

RESOLVED:

The Committee endorsed the LSP Board's Public Health Framework, Strategy and Action Plans for Serious Violence and Exploitation and

Officers to share the performance management of the Strategy and Action Plan through the Members Information Bulletin.

WORK PROGRAMME

LEC 59/18 WORK PROGRAMME

The Primrose Hill Play Area refurbishment to be deleted from the Work Programme as it was incorporated within the Service Plan

RESOLVED:

That subject to the changes above the work programme be agreed.

CHAIRMAN