

EPPING FOREST CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 23 October 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Consultative Committee held at the 201 High Road, Loughton at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Graeme Doshi-Smith (Chairman)	Brian McGhie, Epping Forest Conservation	
Judith Adams, Epping Forest Heritage Trust	Brian McGhie, Epping Forest Conservation	Brian McGhie
Martin Boyle, Theydon Bois and District Rural David Jennings	Wolfgang, Bushwood Area Residents	Volunteers
David Jennings, Highams Residents Association (substitute for Jill Carter)	Mark Squire, Open Spaces Society	Mark Squire
Susan Creevy, Loughton Residents Association	Medley, Highams Residents Association (substitute for Andy Irvine)	Ned W
Moira Duhig, WREN Wildlife & Conservation Group (Substitute for Tim Harris)	Bushwood Area Residents	Bushwood
Robert Levene, Bedford House Community Association	Sylvia Moys, Friends of Wanstead Parklands	Gill Ja
Gordon Turpin, Highams Park Planning Group	Verderer, Epping Forest Riders Association	Verderer
	Verderer, Michael Chapman DL	Verderer
	Verderer, Benjamin Murphy	Verderer
	Sylvia Moys	Sylvia
	Carol Morris, Epping Forest Riders Association	Carol Morris
	Tim Harris, Orion Harris	Associ
	Caroline Haines	Caroline

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Paul Thomson	- Superintendent, Epping Forest
Jeremy Dagley	- Head of Conservation, Epping Forest
Jacqueline Eggleston	- Head of Visitor Services, Epping Forest
Jo Hurst	- Business Manager, Epping Forest
Martin Newnham	- Head Forest Keeper, Epping Forest

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies Sylvia Moys, Caroline Haines, Jill Carter, Tim Harris, Gordon Turpin, Benjamin Murphy, Mark Squire and Mathew Firth.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations received.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the Epping Forest Consultative Committee held on the 12th of June 2019.

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2019 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **MINUTES OF THE EPPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the minutes of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting held on 8th of July 2019 and the draft minutes of meeting Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on the 9th of September 2019.

RESOLVED- That the minutes be noted.

5. **EPPING FOREST - SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE FOR APRIL TO MAY 2019**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest which provided Members with a summary of the Epping Forest Division's activities across April 2019 to May 2019.

RESOLVED- That the update be noted.

6. **EPPING FOREST - SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE FOR JUNE TO JULY 2019 (SEF 30/19)**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest which provided Members with a summary of the Epping Forest Division's activities across June to July 2019.

A Committee Member queried the increased security facilities at Wanstead Car Park which had been mentioned within the Superintendent's report. The Superintendent explained that cameras and improved access teeth had been installed at Car Park.

RESOLVED- That the update be noted.

7. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION RESPONSE TO THE BARTS HEALTH NHS TRUST PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL (SEF 42/19)**

The Committee received a report of Director of Open Spaces on the Barts Health NHS Trust published public consultation documents relating to options for the future of the 44.13-acre Whipps Cross University Hospital site.

Abbas Mirza the Community Engagement Lead for the Whipps Cross Hospital Redevelopment provided the Committee with a presentation on the project. The Community Engagement Lead's presentation explained the need for the redevelopment, options for the site and the community engagement programme noting that the 15th of November date for feedback had now been extended. The Director of Open Spaces noted that the City of London Corporation was supportive of the redevelopment of the site but was fully conscious of the impact to neighbouring Epping Forest land.

Replying to a query from a Member of the Committee the Community Engagement Lead confirmed that the Barts Health NHS Trust had engaged with the local authority and the City of London Corporation to help to mitigate issues caused by increased traffic in the area caused by the redevelopment. Following this it was questioned what the planned car parking provision for new site would be. Replying to this the Community Engagement Lead confirmed that a multi-story car park would be needed on the site but highlighted that Transport for London would also be contacted to explore public transport opportunities for the site.

The representative of the WREN group commented that the group was concerned about the affect redevelopment would have on the local environment and questioned the considerations that had been made regarding sustainability. The Community Engagement Lead clarified that a statutory Environmental Assessment would be completed and that an NHS working group would be looking at organisation wide improvements regarding sustainability with the specific aim at the Whipps Cross site to be in operation for more than fifty years.

Replying to a concern raised on the impact that the increased traffic would have on the Hollow Ponds car park the Director of Open Spaces noted that an item later on the Committee's agenda contained plans for improvement of the car park and that a full mitigation strategy would be produced accordingly.

The Chairman noted that Committee Members should use the consultation methods, as outlined by the Community Engagement Lead, to ensure that the views of local people are fully incorporated in the redevelopment plan. Further to this the Community Engagement Lead informed that he would be attending the full council meeting of Loughton Town Council and Whipps Cross hospital meetings to discuss the matter further.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. **'LONDON'S GREAT FOREST' - A STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EPPING FOREST 2019-29 SEF 37/19**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Strategy and Management Plan for Epping Forest 2019-29. The report provided a Strategy and Management Plan document which presented a summary of the key management objectives for the Forest over the next 10 years.

Members discussed the integration of the strategies to alleviate outside challenges to core strategy priorities of the Epping Forest Management Plan. It was noted by a Member of the Committee that while the responses to outside challenges were not directly referenced in the Plan it did deal with these issues.

A Member of the Committee commented that the reference to acid grassland be added to the Management Plan and requested if there was a policy developed for engagement with commercial dog walkers in the Forest. The Director of Open Spaces explained that a sustainable visitor strategy, which will

include a commercial dog walkers' policy, was due to be developed by the City of London Corporation.

It was noted by a Member of the Committee that the term 'London's Great Forest' was misleading as a large part of the Forest was in Essex and not London. The Director of Open Spaces commented that the reference to London was as a result of the connection with the City of London, both current and historic.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

9. **WANSTEAD PARK: CONCEPTUAL OPTIONS PLAN (SEF 38/19)**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Wanstead Park: Conceptual Options Plan. The report outlined the key details of the future management of Wanstead Park and, at appendix 1, the final draft Conceptual Options Plan.

A Member of the Committee representing the Friends of Wanstead Parklands read a short statement from the group noting the disappointment that the capital projects for the Park were due for 2025 and noted the need for further better transport facilities for the Park. The Director of Open Spaces explained that the capital projects were due to 20205 in part due to the fact that the City of London Corporation, as part of its Fundamental Review process, had paused all capital projects and would be reprioritising expenditure on projects across the organisation. However, it was confirmed that the statutory reservoir works would be completed to the timetable specified.

The Chairman added that there were many Councillors on the Court of Common Council who felt that more resources should be allocated to the management of Open Spaces. Replying to a Member's query the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that the Department would be exploring alternative funding sources to alleviate pressures on the Epping Forest Management Budget and that any funds received from filming in the Forest would be spent in the management of the Forest.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

10. **LEYTON FLATS INDIVIDUAL SITE PLAN (SEF 41/19)**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces which outlined the Individual Site Plan (ISP) that has been prepared for Leyton Flats.

The representatives of the Orion Harriers running club and the Friends of Wanstead Park both commented on their support for the Individual Site Plan (ISP) prepared for Leyton Flats.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

11. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION RESPONSE TO THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST 'SHAPING THE BOROUGH DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2020 - 2035 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (SEF 43/19)**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces which on the London Borough of Waltham Forest Draft Local Plan for 2020 – 2035.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

12. **WANSTEAD PARK PERMANENT ORIENTEERING COURSE (SEF 39/19)**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Wanstead Park Permanent Orienteering Course. The report outlined the request from the Chigwell and Epping Forest Orienteering Club's for permission to undertake a joint initiative with the City Corporation to establish a permanent orienteering course at Wanstead Park.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

13. **EPPING FOREST LICENCE, PRODUCE AND SPORTS CHARGES (SEF 40/19)**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces which provided an update to the Committee on the performance of charges levied for licensed activities, produce sales and formal sports in the last full financial year 2018/19.

Replying to a question from a Member of the Committee the Director of Open Spaces replied that a number of measures had been undertaken to prevent non-compliance with Epping Forest Licence, Produce and Sports Charges. It was explained that Officers worked closely with local businesses on non-compliance and invited Committee Members to observe Officer on compliance checking tours of Epping Forest.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

14. **BALDWINS AND BIRCH HALL PARK PONDS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the proposed works to the impounding earth embankment dams at Baldwins and Birch Hall Park Ponds.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

15. **EPPING FOREST EVENTS TENDER**

The Committee noted that the report was withdrawn from the agenda.

16. **QUESTIONS**

Following a question which a Member of Committee had given notice of prior to the Committee meeting the Director of Open Spaces informed that a full response had been provided via email and that details of the relevant planning permission would be provide to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee.

A Committee Member queried if the bylaw notice boards located in the Forest could be reviewed as they felt that their current size and number did not provide sufficient coverage. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that there was a communications review which would include the notice board provision.

In reply to a question from a Member of the Committee the Director of Open Spaces clarified that the first presentation on the Deer Review would be ready in early 2020.

A Member of the Committee commented on the City of London Corporation's Fundamental Review and commented that green spaces should be considered of paramount importance. The Chairman commented that he fully supported the importance of the City of London Corporation managed Open Spaces and would continue to argue for their continued support throughout the Fundamental Review process.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk informed the Committee of the meeting dates for the Epping Forest Consultative Committee in 2020 which were as follows: 29th of January 2020, 10 June 2020 and 21 October 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chairman

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