

EPPING FOREST JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 20 October 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Philip Woodhouse (Chairman)
Graeme Smith (Deputy Chairman)
Barbara Newman
Sylvia Moys
Verderer Peter Adams
Verderer Michael Chapman
Helen Robertson
Mr Simon Ward
Mr Mark Bolland
Mr Tony Thomas

Officers:

Natasha Dogra – Town Clerk's Department
Paul Thomson – Superintendent, Epping Forest, Open Spaces Department
Jo Hurst – Open Spaces Department
Jeremy Dagley – Open Spaces Department
Geoff Sinclair – Open Spaces Department
Lucy Campbell – Open Spaces Department
Jacqueline Eggleston – Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from:

- Robert Lucas, FSC Chief Executive
- Richard Walker, FSC Director of Finance
- Geoff Brown, FSC Honorary treasurer
- Jenifer White, FSC Trustee

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. FIELD STUDIES CENTRE REPORTS

The Committee received the Field Studies Centre reports relating to work undertaken in 2016, 2016 year end, 2017 budget, plans for 2017, likely outcomes for 2017 and 2018 budget. Members were also invited to comment on the Centre's plan for 2018.

The Group noted that FSC continues working together with the City of London to deliver high quality educational experiences in Epping Forest. 2016 was a very successful year, with 19,849 visitor days (18,543 visitors) and over 98%

customer satisfaction. There were significant staff changes, with the retirement of Steve Bunce in June, and in July, a non-work related serious incident in which a member of staff was hurt. Curriculum change continues to impact on business, specifically on the autumn term, and saw a shift in our customer base, which will continue into future years. FSC continues to develop across the London Region providing more internal support to staff, and also more external support to work in partnership and deliver projects. The hard work and dedication of the team, in a transitional year, is recognised in the successful year we had.

2017 has been a successful year to date, with the year-end expected to be over 23,000 visitor days, delivered in and around Epping Forest. This increase is partly due to curriculum change, but also an increase in attendance at local community events. We have worked closely with the City of London to maintain the buildings and grounds, and where possible update and improve the facilities, with a focus on security and carbon reduction.

The teaching team have responded well to curriculum change, developing and trialling new courses and continue to deliver high quality courses successfully, meeting or exceeding the expectations of 98.9% of customers. Seven of the staff team of 17 started this year, requiring training and staff development time.

Resolved – that the reports be received.