

OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS **Monday, 13 October 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 13 October 2014 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Deputy Alex Deane (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Robert Howard
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons
Deputy Michael Welbank
Alderman Gordon Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Verderer Peter Adams (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Susan Attard	Deputy Town Clerk
Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces Department
Jo Hurst	Open Spaces Department
Martin Hartup	Open Spaces Department
Nigel Lefton	Remembrancer's Department
Sam Cook	Remembrancer's Department
Paul Beckett	Department of the Built Environment
Sarah Chalke	City Surveyor's Department
Alison Elam	Chamberlain's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**
Apologies had been received from Graeme Smith and George Abrahams.
2. **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**
There were no declarations.
3. **MINUTES**
Resolved: that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.
4. **UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
The Committee received an update from the Director of Open Spaces informing Members that the visit to the Olympic Park on 3 October 2014 had been very

well received. A note of thanks had been sent to Mark Camley and Alistair Bayford.

Members also noted that the Epping Forest and Commons Committee had agreed the following Dog Control Orders to be implemented at Burnham Beeches coming into effect on 1 December 2014:

Schedule 1. Pick up dog faeces - resolved to make The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014, to be applied as proposed, across the whole site.

Schedule 2. Dogs on leads at all time - resolved to make The Dogs on Leads (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 to be applied as proposed.

Schedule 3. Dogs on leads where requested - resolved to make The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 to be applied as proposed.

Schedule 4. Dog exclusion zones - resolved to make The Dogs Exclusion (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 as proposed. Dogs would be excluded from the area around the café, as currently applied using the existing voluntary agreement.

Schedule 5. Maximum number of dogs per responsible person - resolve to make The Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 as proposed.

It was noted that Epping Forest and Commons Committee Members would receive an update from the Superintendent in July 2016 and a full review from the Superintendent in January 2017. This was to ensure that those who objected could be content that the matter would be closely monitored and speedily amended if required.

The Director informed Members that a letter had been received from the Kennel Club, addressed to the Lord Mayor, stating that in light of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee decision regarding the City of London's dog control orders in Burnham Beeches, the Kennel Club had decided to terminate their agreement with the City of London which was signed by Alderman Robert H Hall in 2011. A response had been sent by the Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee.

The Deputy Chairman placed on record his disagreement with the decision made by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee regarding Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches.

5. **OPEN SPACES LEGISLATION**

Members noted the possible modifications to the legislation governing the Corporation's Open Spaces. The aims of the changes would be to clarify the management powers available to the Corporation, to increase opportunities to receive revenue for the benefit of the Open Spaces, and to strengthen enforcement powers against wrongdoers. If Members agree that such changes should be further considered, it was proposed that the views of local interest groups be canvassed. It was anticipated that more detailed proposals would then be drawn up for evaluation by Members with a view to the promotion of a City of London Bill (if appropriate) in the autumn of 2015.

Members informed Officers that the current document lacked detail and would need to be strengthened before any modifications could be agreed. Members noted that they were being asked to agree a consultation at this stage, and any modifications to legislation would need to be agreed by the Grand Committee.

It was noted that modifications to this legislation would not affect the City's ability to implement local bye laws. Members agreed that the shortcomings in current legislation meant that modification was necessary.

Resolved: That Members agreed to instruct Officers to test the views of local interest groups on possible modifications to the legislation, as described in this Report.

6. SUGGESTED RESPONSE OF THE CITY CORPORATION TO THE MAYOR'S LONDON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2050 CONSULTATION

Members were informed that on the 30th July 2014 the Mayor of London published for public consultation his draft London Infrastructure Plan 2050. The document summarized the significant growth expectations for London during this period and then suggests what infrastructure London will need, how much it will cost, and how we can fund and deliver it. Members noted that London's resident population was projected to grow from 8.5 million now to over 11 million by 2050, its working population from 4.9 million in 2011 to 6.3 million in 2050, and its annual visitor numbers to grow from 15 million to 21 million during 2012-22.

The actual infrastructure projects delivered over this long timeframe may not be those identified by Officers at this stage but they identified six priority infrastructure types considered essential for London's continuing success:-

1. Transport – a better connected city
2. Green infrastructure – forming a strategic network
3. Digital connectivity – fast and ubiquitous access to the internet
4. Energy supplies – secure, affordable and sustainable
5. Water supplies – secure and resilient
6. Waste management – moving from waste to reuse.

Members welcomed this pioneering and ambitious attempt to set out the infrastructure implications of the significant future growth projected for London and agreed that such long term planning is essential to the long term success of London as a world city. Members agreed that the language in the report could be strengthened to highlight the City's commitment to this plan. Officers informed Members that the content of the submission would come back to the Committee for sign off in due course.

Members agreed that the current document lacked reference to the beneficial effects open spaces have on health and wellbeing. Officers informed Members that this report had been well received by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Officers also agreed to make reference to air quality in the City and the impact it has on health and wellbeing.

Resolved: That Members agreed the basis of the City Corporation's submission to the Mayor in response to his consultation paper.

7. OPEN SPACES EDUCATION STRATEGY

Members noted that the City of London Open Spaces Department had delivered education services over a number of years. Although these services were not a statutory element of provision, prescribed in the Open Spaces Acts, they had been viewed as playing an important role in encouraging visitors to sites and increasing understanding of the ecology and heritage of the sites. In recent years grant funding from the City Bridge Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as work with partners, has led to the expansion and development of provision. This report outlined current services provided and the associated costs. It also outlined the medium term impact of the service-based review exercise on funding for education provision. The report proposed the development of a single learning programme across sites. It proposed priorities for such a programme which will constitute an education strategy for the department.

Members queried whether education work should be determined by the Education Board, as the City Corporation now had an over-arching education policy. Officers informed Members that the Board would be consulted on this work. The Committee would receive an annual information report regarding the education strategy. Officers said they met on a regular basis to share good practice and development with each other and so any overlap between duties would be highlighted at Officer level.

Members queried the role of the Epping Forest Field Studies Centre, and were informed by Officers that the Centre came under the remit of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, however Officers would look into the educational opportunities offered by the Centre.

Members were advised that this package must be finalised before any funding or sponsorship could be sought.

Resolved: That Members:

- Agreed the proposed strategy for development of a departmental education strategy.
- Delegate authority to the Director of Open Spaces, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, responsibility for development of an education, outreach and volunteering programme.

8. FINSBURY CIRCUS REINSTATEMENT UPDATE

The Superintendent advised the Committee that a series of meetings had taken place between Officers and Crossrail recently. In preparing an update report intended for this meeting, officers had discovered that, contrary to what was thought to be the case, the City of London Bowling Club had not accepted any money from Crossrail and had not relocated to Shadwell. The Bowling Club has now made it clear that it wishes to return to Finsbury Circus upon completion of Crossrail and that it requires officers to prepare an agreement with proposed costs for maintenance of the green and Clubhouse for

consideration. The Committee stated that the reinstatement of a new bowling green in the renewed landscape at Finsbury Circus is a matter of principle, and should be considered in light of the Service Based Review. The Committee asked for a report to be brought to their December meeting in order to consider outline design options for the future of Finsbury Circus.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received an update from the Superintendent and noted the following:

Finance

The City Garden budget was in line with agreed budget profiles.

Staff

A recently recruited gardener had joined the team on a fixed term contract last week.

City, London and Britain in Bloom Campaign

On the 8th September, officers attended the London in Bloom finalist award celebrations. The City won an overall Gold for the Town category and as a Special Award, won Borough of the Year.

The City also won the following award:

Town Category

City of London – Gold (assessing the overall impact of managing open spaces including: horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation)

Small Cemetery

Silver Gilt & Category Winner- Bunhill Fields, City of London

Small Park of the Year

Gold - Cleary Gardens, City of London

Gold - Festival Gardens and Queens Diamond Jubilee Garden, City of London

Gold - Portsoken Street Garden, City of London

Gold - Christchurch Greyfriars Church Garden, City of London

The Britain Bloom final awards presentations are taking place in Bristol on 16th October 2014, officers from City Gardens will be attending.

As part of The London Garden's Society awards ceremony which took place on 3rd October, City Gardens won Certificates of Excellence for: Cleary Gardens, Christchurch Greyfriars and Festival Gardens.

Christchurch Greyfriars was awarded the Luder Cup as part of the Flowers in the City competition, awarded at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor last week.

City in Bloom

A celebration event to recognise the contribution made by residents, schools and businesses to the City's green spaces will take place on Monday 27th October in Middle Temple. The event has been organised primarily by the

Friends of City Gardens and sponsored by Helaba, a German Bank in memory of a staff member.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Event

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on 4th December at 4pm, the Lord Mayor would be in attendance and the St Paul's Cathedral choir will be singing at the event.

Members congratulated Officers on their recent successes and thanked them for their hard work.

10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

There was no urgent business.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

14. CITY GARDENS RESERVE FUND

The Committee received the report of the Director of Open Spaces.

15. SERVICE BASED REVIEW PROPOSALS

The Committee received the report of the Director of Open Spaces.

16. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman