

MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 February 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Steve Liddiard (Chair), Simon Wootton, Wendy Curtis, Mike Stone and Pauline Tolson.

In attendance: Councillor Victoria Holloway – Portfolio Holder for Environment
L. Magill – Acting Director of Environment
G. Dennett- Acting Head of Public Protection
G. Greatrex – Sports and Leisure Policy and Development Officer
M. Boulter – Democratic Services Officer

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Curtis declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 5 by virtue that she sits on the community interest group for the South Ockendon Pavilion.

Councillor Tolson declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 5 by virtue that she is a spouse member of the Pegasus Club.

Councillor Liddiard declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 5 by virtue that he sits on the Sports Council, Thurrock Sports Partnership and is a Sports Champion for the Council.

24. SPORTS STRATEGY

The Committee was informed that there were two main sports strategies for the council and they were in the process of being refreshed. The revised strategies would take into account high obesity levels in the area, as well as low levels of sports and physical activity within the Borough. The Council were currently working on a partnership with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to launch a new joint Get Healthy Get Into Sport Project which could bring up to £500,000 of funding between the Boroughs. The Council worked with many partners to deliver the sports agenda and many of these were housed under the Sports and Activities Partnership and Local Sports Council

Councillor Curtis asked questions around the Ockendon facilities and it was confirmed that the football club there did have challenges over access both with entry keys and adequate pathways and the Council were working with the management committee to resolve this.

Councillor Wootton felt there needed to be greater links within the strategy to the legacy of the Olympics and officers confirmed they were working with the communications department to build up the borough's work to the Rio Olympics, finding athletes currently training for this and highlighting their inspirational stories.

Officers noted comments that some local swimming pools had reputations for cold water or unclean water. Officers were not aware of significant issues in relation to this but recognised any perceived negative images were important to rectify and would raise these issues with our partner. Officers also noted comments that the Addizone in Corringham was deteriorating and the Council was working within budgets to improve this.

Councillor Tolson raised a query over the Pegasus Club and asked how the strategy would protect it from any developments, housing or otherwise. The Chair, as a Member of the Planning Committee, confirmed that he had seen correspondence from the Leader of the Council that said no plans were currently in process to build over or replace the club. However, he said there would always be rumours. It was protected as a green belt site.

The Committee briefly debated the future of the Thurrock Gymnastics Club and recognised the logistical challenges of finding an appropriate building but also the need for the club owner to provide a good business case.

The Committee noted the large amount of sports clubs in Thurrock and recognised that partners and private individuals worked very hard to provide sports facilities to the residents. The Committee were impressed with the refurbishments Impulse Leisure had made to certain facilities and requested an update on the strategy return next municipal year.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) The committee note the contents of the report and future strategy development.**

25. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Council had received ninety two responses to its dog control consultation. The results showed that overall, residents did not have any major issues with dogs in the borough and that they were largely supportive of excluding dogs from fenced off toddler play areas. Officers noted the Committee's request to revisit the councillor feedback obtained from last year on this issue, so as to ensure they had not missed any outstanding areas or issues.

The Committee recognised that this was an emotive issue and that the report provided structure and a way forward for resolving some of the issues. Both Committee and Officers agreed that there were many responsible dog owners in Thurrock and they too had to be catered for with possible dog friendly areas.

The Committee discussed the role of fining owners for dog fouling and it was reiterated that it was hard to enforce this penalty and the Council found it more productive to educate residents about responsible dog ownership. They had successfully achieved this at recent dog chipping events that had been supported by the Dog Trust.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) the Committee note the outcome of the public consultation and approve further work to deliver appropriate measures to meet the views expressed in the consultation.**
- ii) Dog Exclusion Orders are obtained for relevant toddler play areas which are the responsibility of the Council.**
- iii) Fencing should be installed in all play areas for which this is appropriate.**
- iv) Further work is undertaken to explore the feasibility of dog friendly areas and possible locations.**

26. WORK PROGRAMME

The following items were suggested for next year's work programme:

- Climate Local
- Sports Strategy Update
- Snow Plan/ Winter Maintenance
- Civic Amenity Sites
- Designated Public Place Orders Review

The meeting finished at 7.59pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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or alternatively e-mail mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk**

