



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
HERITAGE, CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2015 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Dr Barton (Chair)
Councillor Unsworth (Vice Chair)

Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Govind

Councillor Halford
Councillor Shelton

Councillor Thalukdar

In Attendance:

Councillor Clair, Assistant Mayor – Culture, Leisure and Sport

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or other interest they may have in the business on the agenda.

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2015 had been circulated and were agreed as a correct record.

4. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

5. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations or statements of case had been received.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The Membership of the Commission was noted as follows:

Councillor Dr Barton (Chair)
Councillor Unsworth (Vice Chair)
Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Govind
Councillor Halford
Councillor Shelton
Councillor Thalukdar

1 unallocated non Group place

7. MEETINGS OF THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT SCRUTINY COMMISSION 2015/16

The following dates and times of meetings were confirmed for the forthcoming year:

Thursday 24th September 2015
Thursday 20th October 2015
Thursday 10th December 2015
Thursday 4th February 2016
Thursday 31st March 2016

All at 5.30pm.

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission were noted.

9. RUGBY WORLD CUP

The Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services gave a presentation and verbal update on arrangements and events surrounding the Rugby World Cup (RWC).

Representatives were invited to address the commission and the committee had regard to the following points made in the course of discussion:

- The King Power stadium had been chosen as one of the venues, during the tournament it would be known as Leicester City Stadium and three games would be held there;

- The independent Ernst Young Economic Impact report commissioned by England Rugby 2015 estimated that the benefit to Leicester of being a host city would be £59 million based on a scale, although hard to predict a figure and the Council's estimates had been significantly lower. What was certain was there would be significant economic benefit to the city;
- The project governance board involved RWC, colleagues from across the Council were working closely with colleagues at the football club and other agencies;
- Leicester's competitive bid had secured their place as one of the host cities and the council's host city budget was £490,000 with external funding of £11,000 from ER2015 for the "Trophy Tour and Spectacular" and additional funding of £195,000 from funding partners for Leicester's Cultural Programme;
- Costs would be incurred for security, dressing the city, the "Fanzone" at Victoria Park with the benefits of that being paid back many times over;
- As well as affordable tickets, 500 tickets would be used to recognise and reward children, young people, volunteers and groups from the rugby community. £5k was allocated for tickets to be made available to Looked After Children and their carers which would be distributed through children's services;
- Of the key milestones still to achieve training would commence for the 50 Fanzone volunteers in July and the Trophy Tour would begin 13th – 15th August with the Webb Ellis Rugby World Cup touring Leicester and Leicestershire and events being held at the National Space Centre, Judgemeadow Community College, Clock Tower and City Hall;
- The Fanzone would be a key facility for Leicester from 3rd to 11th October at Victoria Park with an estimated 5000 attendees each day with matches being shown live on large screens, involving opportunities to try sports, and an entertainment programme;
- Transport had been carefully considered, there would be national publicity on travelling to matches. Two park and ride sites would be available at Birstall (600 spaces) and the Racecourse (800 spaces) together with a park and walk site at Saffron lane;
- Volunteers would staff the railway station to guide and welcome people to the city, most hotels were city centre based and the council had worked with city businesses to promote the hotel offer, so far 2 hotels were fully booked for the period, 1 was over booked and 1 was nearly fully booked;
- In relation to commercial activity, marketing and promotion there would be 99 banners, bunting and fence scrim around the city together with a

similar voucher campaign that was used to promote business during the KRIII event. 30,000 guides to Leicester were also being published;

- The legacy would come from the work done in schools and rugby clubs, increased facilities, tag rugby in primary schools and teacher development as coach development;
- A programme of 50 cultural events would start 2nd October to 11th October with The Night of Festivals event on the first weekend from Friday evening to Sunday evening and the Big Screen in place to screen matches live;

Officers indicated that they were willing to respond to any detailed questions via email.

The Chair thanked the invitees for their attendance.

10. OVERVIEW OF THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

The Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services together with the Director of Local Services and Enforcement presented information about the service areas covered by the commissions portfolio and matters that were currently in development.

Members were asked to note the presentation which would help them to set the commission's work programme for the forthcoming year.

Members commented that it would be useful to be given more budget and economic details to see what areas would be impacted under this portfolio.

The Chair congratulated all those involved in achieving prestigious green flag status in Parks.

RESOLVED:

That the comments be noted.

11. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SERVICE - UPDATE

The Director of Local Services and Enforcement submitted a report giving an update on the Parks and Open Spaces service.

The Head of Parks and Open Spaces gave a presentation on the Council's Parks service and Bereavement services and gave an update on the key areas of responsibility for those services.

The Head of Parks and Open Spaces further reported that:

- Parks warden service had been reintroduced to address public concerns

- of crime and anti-social behaviour in the parks;
- Services had been restructured into operational and local areas split into clusters of wards with main function bases at Evington House and Leycroft Road depot;
- As well as operational cemeteries the service managed and maintained closed cemeteries and church yards;
- Although the number of parks officers had been reduced there were now parks wardens instead creating a team on duty from 9am to 8pm in summer and having key people with responsibilities;
- In terms of parks development more promotional activity of sites was planned and each would have its own management plan;
- Community consultation was important e.g. 17 new green gyms were to go out and those would be subject to consultation process. The service would also be looking to increase activities with schools to promote educational activities and awareness of issues such as littering;
- 22% of the city was parks and opens spaces which was a large area to cover;
- A key impact on resources was site security, which included preventing unauthorised access e.g. travellers, and fly grazing of horses which ran alongside the traveller issue. At any one time there were 80 fly grazing horses across council land and the service was now operating a zero tolerance policy to remove them from parks land;
- There was improved volunteer co-ordination, community engagement was being developed and encouraged and the parks service were working closely with restorative justice e.g. painting Abbey park railings;
- Love Leicester Action Plans were to be introduced, City Wardens would lead on that and those would be brought to ward community meetings;
- The recent review did not impact on grounds maintenance and in terms of standards there was no threat to service;
- Improvements in parks facilities had been demonstrated by achievement of green flag status and there had been big investments in terms of adding in with improvement on toilet projects, football, gyms and play areas.

The Chair congratulated the team on their achievements and especially on receiving a national award for best improvement in service from the Association for Public Service Excellence.

12. WORK PROGRAMME

A discussion took place on the work programme and members were asked to consider new items for inclusion.

The commission expressed an interest in a number of areas which included the following:

- Plans for Western Park Golf Club land,
- Economic impact of Richard III

- Football Investment Strategy
- Sports Review
- Belgrave Hall
- National Rail Museum extension
- Saffron Hill Cemetery extension
- Tourism

It was also suggested that the work programme could be developed as the year progressed and it became clearer what it would be useful to scrutinise.

RESOLVED:

That the above items be noted for inclusion in the work programme.

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm