

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREEN BELT FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2010**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Yasemin Brett, Marcus East, Alan Sitkin, Tom Waterhouse and Ozzie Uzoanya

ABSENT

OFFICERS: Peter Cook (Interim Manager), Richard Lauder, Head of Projects and Estates Management), Sarah Bryant (Consultant – Planning Policy and Design), Giles Sutton, (bio Diversity Officer), Dennis Bell, (Interim Head of Parks and Open Spaces), Liam Mulrooney (Traffic and Transportation), (and Ann Redondo (Secretary)

Also Attending: Jeremy Sturgess, (Leaseholder – Trent Park Golf Club), Adam Davison (Tottenham Hotspur Representative) and approximately 20 members of the public.

**1
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman, Councillor Sitkin welcomed all those present to the meeting and asked officers to introduce themselves

**2
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**3
DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations in interest of respect of items on the agenda

**4
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

Giles Sutton gave a brief summary of the 'Nature for People' Biodiversity Plan for Enfield.

NOTED

1. The consultation period on the draft plan was for a period of 12 weeks – 29 July – 22 October and residents urged to make their views known.

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Website: www.enfield.gov.uk/biodiversity

2. There were twenty seven cross cutting themes within the document.
3. The various strands included:
 - Planning issues – Development and control
 - Place Shaping – ie: Columbia Wharf – access to nature
 - The management of the many parks in Enfield
 - Ecology management plan
 - The valuable input from volunteers – the recent ‘Batwalk event’ was a huge success with over 200 residents taking part.

Giles Sutton reiterated his plea for residents to read the document and submit comments / views that could enhance the plan.

A short discussion followed:

- a. Councillor Sitkin queried whether European funding could be accessed to encourage frames / landowners to enter into management agreements to encourage the maintenance of hedgerows, pond life etc. Peter Cook advised that the Council were the landlord for several farms in the borough and it had to be considered whether these initiatives would be economically viable. He added that ‘Natural England’ also applied strict criteria on this type of issue. Giles Sutton suggested that it may be feasible to seek funding options from ‘Natural England’ to develop projects with farmers to boost the natural habitat on farmland.
- b. A resident raised concerns over the maintenance of Forty Hill. She said that the gardens needed consistent care and that this was carried out by three ‘helpers’. Giles Sutton said that again ‘Natural England’ could be consulted with a request for funding. Dennis Bell said that due to the Governments intentions to make major decisions on funding available for local authorities it would not be clear until announcements in October / November what resources could be accessed to ‘Heritage Funding’ etc. The resident asked whether the funding was still available for the much needed footpath for the disabled at Forty Hill. Dennis Bell said that funding was available in the existing budget, but, the plans for the footpath may be ‘put on hold’.

5

FOOD STRATEGY

RECEIVED a brief verbal update from Sarah Bryant on the Food Strategy.

NOTED

1. The draft Food Strategy consultation was being conducted for a period of twelve weeks and would end on the 22 October 2010.

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Consultation points have been placed throughout the document to enable focused discussion. Residents were urged to submit their views. Website: www.enfield.gov.uk/food strategy.

There were Three 'key drivers' for developing a Food Strategy:

- Encouraging healthier eating and physical activity as part of a healthier lifestyle
 - Supporting and improving the performance of Enfield's vibrant food sector
 - Promoting food security
2. Public consultation events had been carried out. At the recent Enfield Town Show the interest in food and associated issues (healthy eating, 'grow your own' etc.) was really encouraging, with the food strategy receiving huge support.
 3. The Delivery Plan was at the back of the document with resources being defined to establish what can be delivered.

A short discussion followed highlighting:

- a. A resident said she had responded to the 'online version' of the document and felt that although there were 'lots of wonderful strategies' within it, there was a need to 'get back to basics' and resurrect Home Economics in the school curriculum. She raised concerns over young people not having the confidence or the ability to cook or grow food, and without the fundamental knowledge of nutritional values etc. they would not be encouraged to develop an interest in healthy eating. Sarah Bryant reported that nine primary schools had developed the 'Healthy Family Programme' which included support from the Tottenham Hotspurs Community Outreach Team. As part of the 'cook and eat' scheme parents and children were invited to Southgate College to learn how to prepare healthy practical dishes.
- b. A resident suggested that available allotment sites could be advertised on the Council's website. Dennis Bell advised that there were 2,000 plots in the borough of which 1,900 were being utilised. He said that waiting lists were often due to the fact that the sites available were not in the vicinity where the resident lived. He added that 'half size' allotments were an option being looked at by the Council's allotment officers.
- c. A resident said that although allotments and other alternative sites for growing vegetables / plants were obviously a great way for people to invest in healthier lifestyles, awareness must be made available on how to preserve water for these schemes, such as water butts and irrigation applications.
- d. Councillor Brett supported Councillor's East's suggestion that the parks department could develop strategies to increase the number of beehives in the borough. She referred to the current national 'Adopt a Beehive in Britain' campaign and felt that this would add to the aims of the Food Strategy.

6 ENFIELD CHARACTERISATION STUDY

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RECEIVED a verbal update from Jo Woodward.

NOTED

1. The Council had recently commissioned specialists consultants to undertake a Characterisation Study of Enfield.
2. The purpose of the study was to:
 - Give an understanding of the unique character of the whole borough
 - Help understand how social, cultural and economic factors had influenced Enfield's evolution
 - Help informed decisions on how the borough should change and respond to development pressures
 - Identify areas that warrant protection and improvements
 - Provide a robust and objective piece of work to form the starting point for how future development might contribute positively to the boroughs evolving character.
3. A stakeholder workshop on the draft Characterisation Study would take place mid-October. Final report findings would be known in December. Residents were asked to submit their views.
4. Councillor Uzoanya asked how the Study was being advertised and whether schools would be involved. Jo Woodward said that all stakeholder / partnership groups details held on the database would be informed. The Councils website and the local press would have information. She added that although schools would not be directly involved, there may be a way of working with them.

7

GREENWAY ROUTES FOOTPATHS / RIGHTS OF WAY

RECEIVED a verbal update from Liam Mulrooney.

NOTED

1. The map contents distributed at the meeting.
2. The full presentation at the February meeting of the Green Belt detailed why 'Greenways' were largely 'off-highway routes' connecting people to facilities, parks and open spaces. The London wide initiative was primarily funded by TfL.
3. Liam Mulrooney reported that the previous administration, in reference to the Hadley Wood to Enfield Island Village, had confirmed that any cycle route would definitely not cross the 'Scheduled Ancient Monument at Forty Hall'. He advised that the new administration were now referring back to the original plans on this route, which would be easier to construct. Liam Mulrooney said that on the back of the map there were examples of how the route would look. He added that English Heritage were 'broadly supportive' of the scheme, with the construction being of minimum depth. Trial digging would take place along the alignment of the route with more detailed discussion with English Heritage taking place.

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4. A resident queried what the proposals were to 'segregate' cyclists and pedestrians on Greenways. Liam Mulrooney said that no markings would be installed as the emphasis was based on a leisure type facility and reliant upon people sharing and good manners. The resident referred to the Lea Valley tow path which was 'safe' for pedestrians as it was a flat route and cyclists could be observed easily. Liam Mulrooney that to overcome concerns of speeding cyclists 'meandering slants' could be introduced.
5. A resident referred to the proposed 3 metre hardcore path leading away from the Forty Hill car park and said this would encourage ASB from motorcyclists. Liam Mulrooney commented that muddy surfaces was usually the favoured type of track for motorcyclists and did not think that this surface would attract them. The resident reiterated previous concerns over the loss of park rangers that were no longer employed to monitor this type of potential ASB. Discussions took place on what was the most effective ways of protecting Enfield's' parks and open spaces and the following were observed:
 - The Lea Valley Regional Park employs Rangers who have powers of arrest and was highly effective
 - Residents felt that the Parks Police currently in place within the borough appeared not to be as effective as the Park Rangers previously employed and queried the length of their current contracts. Residents felt that to revert back to the recruitment of Park Rangers would be an efficient resource in both practical and financial terms.
 - A resident suggested the use of 'mounted police' patrolling parks and open spaces, adding that the borough had enough stable facilities to assist in practical terms. Councillor Brett thought that this was 'an excellent idea' and would refer this to the Crime and Safety Panel of which she is a Member.
 - Councillor East said that he would raise a Members Enquiry on the important issues arising from the discussions over Park Rangers / Park Police
Action: Councillor East
 - Councillor Sitkin said that an item: Park Rangers / Park Police would be placed on the next agenda to discuss this substantial issue thoroughly. He also suggested that police representatives be invited to the next Forum in January.
Action: Democratic Services Secretary
6. Councillor Waterhouse queried the costs involved in the maintenance of the Greenway routes within the boroughs parks and whether the Councils parks department would be funding this. Liam Mulrooney said that the funding costs for maintenance would probably fall within the parks budget and would provide some estimates for the meeting in January.
Action: Liam Mulrooney
7. A resident queried the bye – laws attached to ASB caused by the use of quad bikes / motorbikes and whether these were enforcement issues. Dennis Bell said that the processes

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attached to the bye- laws were being amended and this type of ASB would fall within enforcement laws.

8. A resident confirmed that there were 'scramble tracks' in Enfield for young people to use.

8

TRENT PARK GOLF CLUB

RECEIVED a briefing on the report submitted by Jeremy Sturgess of Twigmart Limited.

1. Jeremy Sturgess declared his personal interest on this item as he was the Leaseholder of Trent Park Golf Club.
2. The report was 'self explanatory' and included details of the downward trend affecting all golf clubs in the borough.
3. There was a need to diversify to generate income from the site, but, these would need to be 'sensitive' to existing facilities.
4. Consultations would be made with residents, Councillors, Planning Officers.
5. Options were being looked at, but advice was sought on how to develop and process these for optimum appeal for residents to engage in.
6. Councillor Sitkin felt that there were 'two directions on the circumstances' – the need for specific thoughts on diversification and the intelligence attached to having so many golf courses in Enfield'.
7. A resident highlighted that the Whitewebbs Golf Course was 'had been part of Enfield's establishment for a long time' and that every effort must be made by the Council to improve and maintain this facility. Dennis Bell said that green fees were down at Whitewebbs too, with deficits occurring year on year, hopefully a report could be produced on Whitewebbs for the next Forum meeting in January. Councillor Sitkin said that he would follow up on the situation at Whitewebbs.
Action: Dennis Bell / Councillor Sitkin.
8. A resident said that it would be useful that the proposed tour of the Green Belt for Members of the Forum to also visit Tuckers Park, Hillyfields and Whitewebbs. She said that these sites had become 'dilapidated' and there was a need for a 'central hub' for residents' walkers etc. to meet adding that the original café in Whitewebbs had burned down and the pitch and putt facility had been removed at Hillyfields. She felt that these areas had been 'starved of funds'. Another resident added that parks that had 'Green Flag Status' was good for the borough, but was concerned that funding for these detracted from other areas.
9. Councillor Waterhouse commented that the report was 'really good', and asked Jeremy Sturgess what options were being looked at to boost business at the Trent park Golf Club. Jeremy Sturgess some of the ideas included:
 - Christmas Tree Farming
 - Green Burials
 - Mini Golf

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- 5 – a – side football
- Allotments
- Scrambling Track

He added that the buildings at Trent Park were quite run down and needed refurbishment.

10. Councillor Brett felt that the 'diversity challenge' was a good idea and could be achieved. She suggested that the Golf Club could offer services to the Asian Community for wedding hospitality. Councillor Brett and Jeremy Sturgess would discuss this option outside of the meeting. Councillor Brett added that another sport that could prove popular was Petang.
11. Councillor Uzoanaya commented that maybe part of the problem with golf clubs in general is that they are perceived as an 'elitist' sport and that to diversify was a really good idea. He suggested that perhaps offering a free lesson programme linked in with schools could help boost support long term. Jeremy Sturgess agreed and advised that a new lessons programme was being devised and it was hoped to be linked in with schools by next Spring for a junior programme, including free lessons.

9 MINUTES

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

10 MATTERS ARISING

1. Planning Enforcement Issues within the Green Belt (min.5 (i))

Residents' raised their concerns again that there was still no response regarding the issues attached to Guy Lodge Farm and questioned the absence of the Enforcement officer to respond to the 'ongoing saga'. An Enforcement Officer had been asked to attend the meeting but no response had been received.

Councillor Sitkin said that the situation must be resolved and would seek a full response. He added that the Guy Lodge Farm would be included in the proposed tour of the Green Belt.

Action: Councillor Sitkin / Democratic Services

2. Tottenham Hotspur Football (Spurs) Academy Site

Councillor East referred to various concerns raised by residents at the last Forum. He advised that he, along with Councillor Waterhouse was due to visit the site on 28 September 2010 and would submit a full briefing for the next Forum in January. A resident made a request for the 'set aside field' in the vicinity to be looked at. She explained that

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waste is stored there that emanated from Capel Manor and queried how this was being managed.

Action: Councillor East

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1.. Theobald Parks Road

A resident raised her concerns over the absence an enforcement officer at the Forum and felt that there were important issues that needed a response at the meeting. She said that ariel photographs taken of Theobalds Road depicted a scrap metal site that was just not being managed and was a huge eyesore. The resident asked that this site could be added to the Green Belt Tour for Members.

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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 19 January 2011

Wednesday 23 March 2011

Tuesday 10 May 2011