



Scrutiny Sub-Committee A

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the held on Monday 20th October 2008 at 7.00 P.M. at the Aylesbury Day Centre, 2 Bradenham Close, off Albany Road, London SE17 2QB.

PRESENT: Councillor John Friary (Chair)
Councillors Columba Blango, Robin Crookshank-Hilton,
Lorraine Lauder, Danny McCarthy

ALSO PRESENT: J. Nelson – Friends of Peckham Rye Park
Liz Brugh - Friends of Peckham Rye Park
Norman Gaston - Friends of Peckham Rye Park

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Des Waters – Head of Public Realm
Jon Sheaff – Parks and Open Spaces Manager
Kieron Meehan – Legal Services
Fitzroy Williams – Scrutiny Project Assistant

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Skelly, Mr Denning and Anne Crawford.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

None.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There was a disclosures of interests:-

Councillor Robin Crookshank-Hilton declared that she used to be a trustee of Groundwork London, who will be making a presentation at the next meeting of this sub-committee with regards to Burgess Park.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on September 16th 2008 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record, with the following amendments:-

Page 3 paragraph 1.12 delete “£10,000 to build an all purpose facility” and replace with “£10,000 to appoint an architect”.

Page 5 paragraph 1.20 delete “The reason most junior teams played away was not in respect of casual players” replace with “Southwark Caribb did not get their full pitch allocation this year because the meeting on 14th May 2008 agreed that priority should be given to junior teams” Mick Barnard responded “if that is the case why are none of our junior team games being played on Peckham Rye this season”.

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and explained the reason for this meetings location, was due to the fact that the sub-committee will be considering how Burgess Park should look and be used to the maximum benefit of the community in future and how it can be funded and supported over the next few meetings.

The Chair informed the sub-committee that he and the scrutiny officer will be visiting the park before the next meeting.

1. Peckham Rye Park

The sub-committee heard from Liz Brugh from Friends of Peckham Rye Park, who informed members that there had been a strong feeling about moving the fairs and circus to the southern part of the common and this had been agreed. Most of these events took place during the summer months.

The friends of Peckham Rye Park also reported that there was a problem with increased plankton growth in the park and this issue required urgent attention. John Best (Parks & Sport) had been made aware of this problem.

It was reported that Peckham Rye Park is covered by 2 post codes SE15 and SE22, the common is covered by post code was SE22 and the park SE15, parts of the park are covered under legislation as common grounds, which would affect how the grounds could be used.

The chair stated that the whole point about parks were that they are there to be enjoyed by all people in the local area. Officers need to look at the policies of parks/commons and requirements specifically in the summer months.

Members were aware of the differing views and perspective of different user groups and were specifically looking at the park from a sports point of view especially the facilities that are presently available.

With regards to contact lists for scrutiny sub-committee meetings, the sub-committee undertook to check all lists and consider advertising meetings in a local newspaper in the future taking into account the budget limitations.

The chair reported that it was felt that a supervisor should be in situated at the park on Saturdays and Sundays to make sure any problems are resolved effectively and the supervisor would be needed from 12 to 4 p.m.

The Head of Public Realm accepted that more youth pitches were required in the park over the weekends and undertook for this to be organised. It was also reported that the policy for pre-booking and payments showed an increase in demand for youth team bookings and this group need to be given priority.

The Chair stated that officers need to look at the present policy to see what can be done for junior teams.

The sub-committee then considered the different kinds of sporting activities that could take place in the park, which were as follows:-

- Tennis courts (poor condition)
- Cricket
- Bowling green (works to take place in the spring)

Members also discussed the possibility of accessing Harris Sports Centre which is located at the east side of the park for changing facilities. The sub-committee were also aware that the council needs funds for improvements to the park and this may prove difficult in the present time.

The Head of Public Realm reported that a water play area would be advantageous to the park and common, but officers would need to look at the physical infrastructure.

During the discussion members highlighted the following points:-

- That a feasibility study is required for a multifunctional use area in the park
- clarified that the current changing rooms were only temporary, until funding is available
- Acknowledged phase 1 of the associated changing rooms in Holmesdale Road.

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager reported that a 10 year plan was required for the park and this plan should cover all activities, which already had a green flag status. The officer undertook to provide information regarding Holmestall Road proposal.

The sub-committee were also informed that the adventure playground was due to be opened shortly and this would change the dynamics of the park once again.

Councillor McCarthy informed the sub-committee that there were a number of large developments taking place in the borough and under the provision of section 106 funding should be available for parks and open spaces. It was suggested that the council collect this funding from developers and place in a cash pot which could be used for all parks and commons in this borough and used for sports and recreation.

Members supported the idea that a long term strategy for parks/commons should included consultation with schools and children with regards to future sporting needs and requirements for local parks.

The chair thanked everyone for their contribution and informed all present that the main points were the long term sustainability of the park/common and the views of John Best (Parks & Sport) would be sought. Conflicts between clubs and officers needed to be resolved fairly and quickly.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft report be agreed with following amendments to recommendations to include review of policy and training and to include a feasibility study on the park/common.

2. Burgess Park

The chair introduced the item and reported that members would need to consider how the park should look and be used to maximum benefit of the community in future and how this can be funded/supported.

Members were informed that Virginia Nimarkoh (Groundwork London) and Christine Wildharbour (Southwark Parks and Sport) will be providing a joint presentation for the sub-committee at its next meeting, scheduled for 24.11.2008.

The sub-committee were informed that Aylesbury estate is due to be demolished but will be replaced with private and public sector housing, which would mean a tariff will be made available to Burgess Park of £20 million over 15 years.

Members were also informed that a report on the Aylesbury area is to be considered shortly and officers undertook to circulate the draft summary to members. This would include Groundwork London and Friends of the Park final business plan.

Groundwork had conducted this project and they completed risk assessments which highlighted hidden cost and it was decided that the trust was not the best vehicle for this idea. It was pointed out to members that trusts usually end up coming back to the council for funding.

When the budget was announced for this year the trust could not be kept, so the trust became a dormant body and as such decided to remove councillors as trustees.

Local groups and residents were consulted and a bid was submitted to major priority parks fund in London. Local groups and residents were consulted and a bid was submitted to major priority parks fund in London, this got through the 1st phase and awaiting further information.

Councillor Lauder stated that the park needs to be tidied up, live schemes for 0-8 year olds should be set up for next summer and a water play area in Chumleigh Park should be accessed through Burgess Park.

The sub-committee were aware that people felt vulnerable and that proper lighting is required for the park, entrances to the park needs to be made safe, ramps needs to be exciting for users i.e. bike riding and skating. The tennis centre would need funding of between £50,000 to £100,000 to bring it up to scratch, and this service is very well used all year round.

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager informed members that funding would be required to produce a master plan for the park, where different attractions can be fitted properly in the park. The officer undertook to provide members with a briefing document regarding Burgess Park.

The chair highlighted the following points:-

- Landscaping of the park (as there are beautiful areas in the park)
- Looking at the north end part of the park
- Looking at the gap in the park
- Walworth road tennis club
- The park appears to be disjointed and needs to be more flowing
- Cycling track
- Lake
- Map of Burgess Park.

RESOLVED:

1. The officer undertook to provide members with a briefing document regarding Burgess Park
2. That a report on the Aylesbury area is to be considered shortly and officers undertook to circulate the draft summary to members, this would include Groundwork London and friends of the park final business plan.
3. That the sub-committee receives a presentation from parks and open spaces and groundwork regarding proposals for Burgess Park.
4. That maps of Burgess Park be made available for the next meeting of the sub-committee (24.11.2008)
5. That the chair visit and tour the park prior to the next meeting of the sub-committee (24.11.2008)

The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.

CHAIR:

DATED: