

Scrutiny Task and Finish Panel Agenda



Leisure Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel Tuesday, 12th September, 2006

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 6.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Adrian Hendry, Research and Democratic Services
Tel. 01992 564246, email: ahendry@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors Mrs H Harding (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks (Vice-Chairman), M Colling, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs J Lea, J Markham, S Murray, Mrs P K Rush, Mrs P Smith, P Turpin and J M Whitehouse

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

4. NOTES FROM LAST MEETING - 31 JULY 2006 (Pages 5 - 10)

To note and agree the attached minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2006.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 11 - 14)

Chairman/Lead Officer) To note the attached updated Terms of Reference and associated Work Programme. The Panel are asked at each meeting to review both documents.

6. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF RODING VALLEY MEADOWS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (Pages 15 - 16)

BACKGROUND

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee have established a Task & Finish Panel, to review options for the Future Management of the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve, once the current Agreement with Essex Wildlife Trust expires in April 2007. The Panel will have had the opportunity to visit the Reserve on the 8th August, to see the site first hand.

CONSULTATION MEETING

It is proposed that the Essex Wildlife Trust will be given an opportunity to formally present the case for an Extension/Renewal of their Management Agreement. The Trust will be asked to detail what added value and expertise they can bring to the management of the Reserve. The Panel will be able to ask questions of the Trust and seek further details.

After the Trust presentation the Panel have requested that the Council's own In-House Countryside Management Service, 'Countrycare' present the implications of the alternative option of bringing the Reserve back into direct Council control. Again, the Panel will have the opportunity to question them.

The Panel would also like to seek the views of both the Reserve Management Committee and the Liaison Committee, on the current arrangements and what they feel could be in the future best interests of the Reserve.

Finally, the Panel would like to speak with any local people who use the Reserve to establish their feelings. Note that it is not the intention to have this initial part of the evening as an open 'Public Meeting', rather it is to invite those individuals who have expressed a desire to voice an opinion to attend. This will have to be by invitation due to constraints of time. However, the Panel shall also welcome written submissions.

A proposed Timetable for the meeting is as attached.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Panel to note:

- The visit to Copped Hall Charity Fun Run on Sunday 17 September 2006; and
- To hold a meeting at the Civic Offices on 28 September 2006 with the Head teacher of King Harold School about the future management of the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre.