

Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Leisure Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel Tuesday, 21st November, 2006

Place: Theatre Resources, Ongar Arts and Education Centre, Great Stoney, High Street, Chipping Ongar

Time: 7.00 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

Please note that this meeting is open to all members to attend. As the meeting is being hosted by Theatre Resources, could non-panel members please advise the Lead Officer (Derek Macnab) or Democratic Services if they wish to attend, to assist with the practical arrangements.

1. MAP TO GREAT STONEY, ONGAR ARTS AND EDUCATION CENTRE (Pages 5 - 6)

Map attached.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING - 28 SEPTEMBER 2006 (Pages 7 - 12)

Attached.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 13 - 16)

(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.

7. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH GRANGE FARM TRUST

On the 12th September the Task and Finish Panel undertook a consultation meeting with respect to the Future Management of Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve.

The consensus of the Panel was that the Preferred Option would be to recommend that the Essex Wildlife Trust be offered a new Management Agreement for a length of twenty years (in order to attract external funding) but that the new Agreement should provide for greater monitoring and evaluation of management practices, with more frequent and direct reporting to the Council. In addition the Panel also recommended that partnership working with Countrycare should be formalised to promote joint working, within any new arrangements.

The Panel recognised that the Grange Farm Trust have an interest as landowners on the Nature Reserve. Unfortunately the Trust could not send a representative to the consultation meeting. As such, they would need to be consulted prior to any final decision.

The Head of Leisure Services met with the Grange Farm Trust for an initial discussion on the 16th November 2006 and will report orally on the outcome.

8. WALTHAM ABBEY SPORTS CENTRE - FUTURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

On the 28th September 2006 the Panel considered a report outlining options and considerations with respect to the future management of Waltham Abbey Sports Centre, post the expiry of the current Dual Use Agreement in September 2007. The Panel had invited the Headteacher, Chairman of Governors and Bursar to attend to share their views. Although all parties wished to secure future Community Use, there were a number of key points at this stage.

❖ The school does not wish to manage the Centre unilaterally, as they

currently do not have the capacity.

- ❖ The school does not want to have a third party as a Partner.
- ❖ The District Council would not like to rule out the third party option as they would like to achieve a position, which reduced costs to the Council and transferred risk.

It was agreed that Officers would meet with the school, to start to negotiate potential new terms etc which would attempt to address each party' concerns.

The Head of Leisure Services will report on progress to date on these discussions.

9. TOUR OF GREAT STONEY, ONGAR ARTS AND EDUCATION CENTRE AND INSIGHT INTO THE WORK OF THEATRE RESOURCE

As part of the review of Arts development in the District, the Panel are being given an opportunity to view the facilities at Great Stony and hear about the current work and future aspirations of Theatre Resource.

Theatre Resource is a professional arts organisation and registered charity based at Great Stony. Since 1990 Theatre Resource has grown from a partnership of two artists to an organisation with a national reputation. In 1998 the company moved to Great Stony and commenced the refurbishment of the Victorian Building into a fully accessible Arts Centre.

Theatre Resource has a Service Level Agreement with Epping Forest District Council, through the Community Grants Scheme, which has assisted the organisation to develop. Theatre Resource are keen to communicate to the Task and Finish Panel the importance of the Company's relationship with the District Council and to discuss ways in which the Partnership could be strengthened, for the benefit of arts opportunities in the District.

Jeff Banks, the Director of Theatre Resource will host the visit.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other items of business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To identify a suitable date for future meetings.