

LEISURE TASK AND FINISH PANEL – 2006/07

RECOMMENDATIONS

PROGRESS TO DATE

Future Management of the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve.

1. That negotiations be entered into with Essex Wildlife Trust with respect to a new Management Agreement for the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve.
2. That the new Management Agreement be offered for a minimum of 20 years, preferably 25 years (in order to maximise opportunities for external funding) but that provision should be made for periodic, performance related, break clauses.
3. That any new Management Agreement should allow for enhanced monitoring and evaluation of management practices and their effect on the flora, fauna and wildlife on the site, with more frequent direct reporting to the Council and the Grange Farm Trust.
4. That Partnership working with the Council's own Countryside Management Service Countrycare, be formalised within any new Management Agreement, to ensure the continuation of joint working.
5. That the Grange Farm Trust be fully consulted on any new Management Agreement to reflect their interest and the potential future extension of the Local Nature Reserve to include the

A draft document has been completed and this is soon to be discussed with Grange Farm Trust and EFDC (Countrycare). Once the final document is agreed between those parties then it will be presented to Essex Wildlife Trust for discussion, completion and signing.

<p>provision of an Interpretation Centre.</p> <p>6. That the future costs of managing the Reserve, with respect to the Annual Grant to Essex Wildlife Trust, be reflected in the New Agreement on the basis of current costs plus inflation.</p> <p>7. That the Grange Farm Trust are asked under the terms of the new Management Agreement, to contribute proportionately to the management costs and also encouraged to invest in infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>8. That the final terms of any new Management Agreement be agreed by the Council's Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Leisure Portfolio Holder.</p>	
<p>FUTURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR WALTHAM ABBEY SPORTS CENTRE</p> <p>The Panel recommended:</p> <p>1. That the council tries to ensure that Community use is retained at Waltham Abbey Sports Centre, for the benefit of local people.</p> <p>2. That the current direct management arrangements, (under the terms of the current Dual Use Agreement), would not represent Value for Money in the longer term and as such the Council should be looking to achieve a reduction in risk and lower revenue consequences, in any future arrangements, which may include the involvement of a third party Leisure Management Contractor, secured by open competition.</p> <p>3. That given the fact that the School Governing Body have yet to identify a Preferred Management Option, that a Leisure Task and Finish Panel conclude the review in the next municipal year,</p>	<p>This topic is still continuing into the new year, under the reconstituted Leisure T&F Panel.</p>

<p>mindful of the urgency needed to reach a final decision by September 2007.</p>	
<p>REVIEW OF ARTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT</p> <p>The Panel recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That whilst recognising the quality of the current Arts Development work undertaken by the Council's own Arts Team, the Council actively explore the feasibility of third party delivery from suitably qualified and experienced Arts Organisations, for part or all of the Service. 2. That the underlying objectives and outcomes of any alternative future delivery option, should be to increase access to and participation in the Arts, for people of all ages and abilities, within the Epping Forest Community. 3. That the feasibility of the alternative delivery of the Arts be undertaken by a Leisure Task and Finish Panel in the 2007/08 Municipal Year, with their recommendations going forward to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, for any final decision 	<p>The Panel, while recognising the vitality of the Council's arts programme, recommended that a feasibility study for the alternative delivery of the arts be undertaken.</p> <p>This is currently being undertaken by the current Leisure Task and Finish Panel.</p>
<p>COUNCIL'S ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUTDOOR EVENTS</p> <p>The Panel recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council recognise the important part that Community and Outdoor Events play in the life of the District and their value and benefit to local people. 2. That the Council currently are failing corporately, to maximise opportunities to utilise events to raise the Council's profile, consult 	<p>Gerry Kehoe is to complete a report which will be presented to Members with recommendations on the way forward as per the recommendations from T&F and O&S. This will go to Cabinet.</p>

on Policy and Service Issues and to showcase the current quality of the services it provides. To this end it is recommended that work is undertaken to improve the Council's presence at events, the cost and implications to be reported to the Cabinet for consideration.

3. That whilst the Council already hosts a programme of Outdoor Events at North Weald Airfield, consideration should be given to the Council becoming a more active provider of its own major events at the site, recognising the risk, to achieve increased profile and potential profit. A formal proposal for a trial event be developed, possibly a music or fireworks event, to be reported to the Cabinet for approval.
4. That further consideration should be given to increasing capacity within the Council to provide advice and technical support to Community Event Organisers, to help ensure that such events still continue in the face of more rigorous Legal, Health and Safety and Insurance requirements.
5. That a formal appraisal should be undertaken in liaison with all parties e.g. emergency services etc., to determine whether an Events Safety Action Group should be established for the District.