

MINUTES OF THE GREENING OF THE BOROUGH WORKING GROUP
HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2014

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members

David Carter
John Boyce
Sharon Morris
Sarah Dickinson
Helen Loydall

Officers:

Carolyn Holmes- Country Parks & Environment Manager (CH)
Anne Court – Director of Services (AC)
Brian Kew - Operations Manager (BK)

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
10.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Councillor Frank Broadley Councillor Linda Broadley Councillor Rav Thakor	
11.	<u>MINUTES</u> Minutes of Previous Meeting on Wednesday 11 June 2014 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.	
12.	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> Paragraph 5 - Greening of the Borough Action Plan <u>Grass Verges</u> – to date only estimates of costs are available as waiting to for confirmation from Leicestershire County Council on what will be transferred budgets. Members requested that Officers continue to pursue firmer proposals with a report back to the next meeting of an in-house solution and report back particularly on service capacity, revenue versus capital costs and opportunities of working with other districts. <u>Improving the Gateways and Main Thoroughfares of the Borough -</u> Officers reported on further ideas formulated since the last meeting on how to reduce the revenue costs, engage	AC

	<p>with communities and source sponsorship, which included taking proposals to the Residents Forums, replant with non-seasonal planting. A Member requested that Officers liaise with Leicestershire County Council on the poor standard of planting on the Wakes Road roundabout.</p> <p><u>Country Parks and Access to the Countryside</u> - Officers were requested to continue to pursue with the new Leisure Contractor, the creation of a footpath from the already informal cut-through that is used off Wigston Road across to the Parklands Leisure Centre. This will give recognition that a footpath exists and by formalising its existence this will give control over its use.</p> <p><u>Volunteering Update</u> - AC reported that Senior Management Team had considered the feasibility of the Council introducing a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Scheme for employees but did not see this being possible to implement at this time due to lack of capacity. Members requested that this not be ruled out entirely, to instead, draw up a policy setting out a form of criteria for the Council to invoke CSR</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>AC</p> <p>AC</p>
13.	<p><u>GREENING OF THE BOROUGH MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE – Agenda Item 4</u></p> <p><u>Communications Plan</u> – the steps taken to date to increase media coverage for the Greening of the Borough Strategy. A Member suggested that this included the neighbouring district's local radio station, Harborough FM.</p> <p><u>Brocks Hill signage and identity</u> – the recommendation that £1000 be released from the Greening of the Borough reserve fund to commission an external source to prepare the copy and images for bespoke packs of literature promoting the wildlife of Brocks Hill was approved. It was recognised that there were not the in-house skills to do this piece of work and that to generate a potential ongoing income stream from the packs, there will be start up costs. . CH handed copies of a further information pack "Creative Nature, Adult Discovery Sessions" at Brocks Hill which should generate a significant income stream. In terms of income streams generally Officers could not give a definite amount at this stage with there being a number of up and coming projects underway but had estimated £6-7,000 in this financial year</p> <p>A Member sought clarification that there would be equality across the green sites of the Borough when allocating funds from the reserve fund and this was confirmed.</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>CH</p>

	<p><u>Greening of the Borough projects – A future piece of work for Officers to bring to this Group is to draft Terms of Reference for volunteer groups who carry out projects on the Council's land.</u></p> <p><u>Trees across the Borough – Officers confirmed that the proposed new post of an Arboriculture Officer will be an investment as opposed to the use of external professionals to provide advice and carry out tree surveys across the Borough. .</u></p> <p>Whilst the reporting of the designation of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) for trees opposite Bushloe House was noted, Members requested that in future TPOs are reported through the Development Control committee. A Member sought clarification on who looks after other significant trees in the Borough such as the redwoods on the Asda site; Officers confirmed that Leicestershire County Council do so.</p>	CH/BK
14.	<p><u>VOLUNTEERING UPDATE – Agenda Item 5</u></p> <p><u>Corporate Social Responsibility and Employee Volunteering –</u></p> <p>Officers reported that there continued to be interest shown from businesses to undertake CSR at Brocks Hill. This needs to be looked at in more detail and developed with potential to charge for Officer time eg the Ranger. A member requested that a piece of work be undertaken on how we corporately capture the information ie the income or the notional value of volunteering.</p> <p>Members agreed that there needed to be a formal recognition of the work of volunteers that goes toward the Greening of the Borough Strategy. A suitable occasion and costings to be worked up.</p> <p>In terms of engaging young persons at Brocks Hill with volunteering, this will be pursued with the Council's Young Persons Co-Coordinator and the Chair of the Children and Young Persons Forum</p>	CH CH
15	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS –Agenda Item 6</u></p> <p>Councillor Sharon Morris gave her apologies for the next meeting.</p>	
	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Wednesday 18 November 2014, 6.30 p.m. at the Council Offices, Committee Room</p>	