

Greening of the Borough Working Group

Wednesday 18th December 2013

Present: Cllr Carter (Chair), Cllr Boyce, C Holmes, L Marshall

Apologies: Cllr F Broadley, Cllr B Boulter, Cllr R Thakor, M Hall

1. Notes of Previous meeting 11th September 2013

Approved

Matters arising

TCV Edible Food Trail

TCV are currently applying for funding for which OWBC has supplied a letter of support. If funding is forthcoming it will enhance current working relationships. The Community allotment site would need to be reflected as in kind support from the Council.

Entry Points to the Borough

A meeting has been arranged with Leicester University in the New Year as part of the wider Biodiversity Group. Also in discussions with Stepping Stones about supporting the Clean & Green team on planting schemes. Suggestion made that a register of entry points would assist the planning of future works.

Some winter planting has been undertaken at some of the points.

Cllr Carter has been made aware that Leicester Racecourse is keen to contribute to the development of the entry point relevant to them

2. Brocks Hill Vision & Mission

The group considered drafts of possible visions and mission for the site. There was general agreement about a move towards natural history and away from the technologies. There is a need to ensure that the mission reflects the fact the Park is there for the Borough and all of the residents in it.

Refined statements reflecting the discussion and points outlined are to be produced.

3. Rebranding & Marketing

Examples of possible branding styles for Brocks Hill and the Country Parks service were considered. Any rebranding of the site will need to take account of new leisure contract and any implications that has on the Parklands site. Also may need to be undertaken in stages.

General agreement that the focus is on the Country Park more than the Visitor Centre in terms of overall branding.

There may be possible funding opportunities to assist in marketing work that CH will pursue and submit bids where appropriate.

4. Building Review

An initial review of the building has been undertaken and a report outlining the results was discussed.

There is a need to produce an action plan that addresses potential fire risks – a draft revised evacuation plan has already been started. This will need to include management as well as financial solutions.

Draft building layouts to be produced for partial and more complete changes along with cost/benefit analysis of the options and outlines of possible funding streams that may assist with any changes or redevelopment.

Funding streams may be dependent on original funding conditions from the Big Lottery.

5. Charging Structures

Various concepts of charging and differential rates were discussed. The concept of differential rates for different types of groups was agreed and revised charges will be put in place.

6. Cafe

Details of benchmarking that had been undertaken with other country parks were presented and discussed. The potential of holding a soft market testing day was also discussed as a possibility.

Options going forward for cafe will need to balance risk and income.

7. Amphitheatre

Work is being undertaken to try and attract external funding for this project. Potential sources have been identified and bids will be prepared in the New Year.

8. Natural Cemetery

A constructive meeting had been held on site with an expert in natural burial and the outcomes of this meeting were presented to the Steering Group. The meeting had raised a large number of issues that would make taking the project forward difficult.

Discussions need to be held with the EA regarding the drainage under the site and the likelihood of a licence being granted.

Original business case to be redrafted using information gained from the site meeting.

9. GoTB Action Plan

The latest draft was circulated at the meeting. There was a desire to see greater prioritisation within the plan and for fewer actions in more detail that could be presented as a project list for each year.

10. Date of Next Meeting: 2 April 2014 - 5.30pm

LCM