

Greening of the Borough Working Group

Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Present: Cllr Carter (Chair), Cllr Boyce, Cllr F Broadley C Holmes (CMH), A Court (AC), M Hall (MH)

Apologies: Cllr B Boulter

1. Notes of Previous meeting 18th December 2013

Approved

Most actions covered within reports and Agenda items

TCV Edible Food Trail one grant has been unsuccessful and being resubmitted and second bid being submitted to Leicestershire County Council. No further updates provided from TCV.

Agenda items:

4. Projects Update

- a. Assistant Ranger – update on staff member and identified project working areas discussed
- b. Fludes Lane – need for meaningful consultation raised; links to flood basin area discussed (particularly in light as to position with regard to ownership by Severn Trent Water); discussion around the management plan, consultation and community engagement and also any possible future works on aligning designed public rights of way. Use Letterbox for engagement

Action: CH/NH

- c. Chicken Alley approved project ideas
- d. Barn at Brocks Hill – Planning permission submitted. CH to check that application includes all proposed uses. Also consultation to take place with neighbouring properties on The Oval
Action: CMH/AC to investigate and feedback with information from Nick Hague.
- e. TCV Tenancy – legal finalising lease
- f. Soil Association – approval now given for Food Bus to stay overnight at Brocks Hill for intensive week

5. Volunteering Verbal Update

Working with Voluntary Action Leicester (VAL) to review and update current Procedure and Policy. New employee volunteering and training booked with British Gas, Charnwood Foods and Youth Offenders Service. Volunteering opportunities fair at Brocks Hill working with VAL on Monday June 2nd. Volunteering at Fludes Lane identified for Sundays but might include other days as identified following consultation on new group

Action: Any policy updates to be reported to the Policy, Finance and Development committee -CMH

6. Brocks Hill Work Plan and Progress Report

Discussion took place on the report in particular the emphasis that was to be used as to the nature of the site, whether countryside or environment and the brand and vision. It was recommended that the brand would simply be “Brocks Hill and the vision was agreed as follows:

“Brocks Hill to become recognised as Leicestershire’s **premiere** country park and centre for natural history that the whole Borough embraces and enjoys”

Amphitheatre – The wet weather has delayed progress. Discussion took place around simplification of design to achieve an acceptable level of funding. There was also discussion around match funding, potential funders and use of the Greening of the Borough reserves and issues of timing of funding bids. Look towards partners for potential funding. MH to take a report to Council in April recommending a protocol for CMH to access funds without delay to avoid losing out on external funding eg where match funding from the Council is required. This protocol is to tie into the Greening of the Borough action plan. The report is to also seek approval of the way forward for Brocks Hill and the new vision and role as the “home of natural history.”

Action: MH to prepare a report for Council meeting on 29 April 2014.

Natural Cemetery- Based on assessments from the national expert and feedback from Environment Agency it was agreed to place this project on hold (including progression of burial of ashes - the only element that could be considered) for the medium to long term.

Action: CMH to report this to Service Delivery committee

Clarification on the detailed work plan for Brocks Hill and in particular wider biodiversity work, including local wildlife site management plans (sites not yet identified); issues of capacity and targets. Risk area is full time to review historic Phase 1 wildlife surveys and biodiversity audit of Borough. Most work identified with partners so some element of business risk in terms of delivery. Work plan has been developed with team and deemed achievable

7. Greening of the Borough Action Plan

Members requested a simplified public facing Greening of the Borough Strategy document with fewer aims and covering text. This should be available from September/October for wider public consultation and engagement.

Entry Points to the Borough to be reviewed for potential projects and joined up working with the "Clean and Green" team. View that action plan still needs further simplification and more realistic and defined projects.

CMH reported links with Leicester University Botanical Gardens progressed with the Academic team but meeting with Estates team postponed three times. An email has been sent to try and progress this.

Action: CMH to review the action plan for the next meeting of the group.

8. Brocks Hill Technologies Review

Members asked for further details on the life span of technologies and did not rule out potential for future projects following on from this report. CMH identified rain water harvesting as progressing as soon as possible and identified work on the Building Energy Management System and Solar Air Heat Ventilation System as a way forward for initial activity.

Members asked that the Brocks Hill team progress possible wind turbine land rents

Action CMH

9. Project Wild Thing

Endorsed in principle to sign the pledge and join the campaign but to be taken to committee

Action AC/MH

10. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th 2014 - 5.30pm MH's office