

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITY BOARD

HELD AT 5.15 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2015

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman – (Mayor)
Councillor Shahed Ali –
Councillor Alibor Choudhury – (Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Aminur Khan –
Councillor Gulam Robbani –

Other Councillors Present:

Apologies:

Councillor Oliur Rahman – (Leader of the Independent Group)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed –
Councillor Abdul Asad –
Councillor Shafiqul Haque –
Councillor Rabina Khan – (Leader of PATH Group)

Others Present:

Officers Present:

Antoinette Duhaney – (Interim Senior Committee Officer)
Stephen Murray – (Head of Arts and Events)
Surjit Sandhu – (Principal Lawyer, Department of Law
Probity and Governance)

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Alibor Choudury declared an interest in agenda item 3.1 – Teaching Pod for Stepney City Farm on the grounds that the site was in his ward and he had visited the site.

2. PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the public minutes of the previous meetings of the King George's Field Charity Board held on 23 July and 17 September 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

3. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 REQUEST FOR LANDLORDS CONSENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TEACHING POD AT STEPNEY CITY FARM (SCF)

The report was introduced by Stephen Murray, Communities, Localities & Culture. He advised that landlord consent was required to make any changes to the site or construct any new buildings. Stepney City Farm (SCF) had submitted an application for Big Lottery funding which was subject to the granting of landlord permission to construct an Eco Pod. Planning permission for the construction of an Eco Pod had already been granted.

Representatives from SCF addressed the meeting and outlined their reasons for seeking Landlord consent. SCF received 30,000 visitors annually and needed an indoor space to cater for them. The site had ample space to accommodate an Eco Pod and the building would be used primarily as a classroom space and also as a space for volunteers. The Eco Pod was not a permanent structure and would be made from recyclable materials. It would facilitate an enhanced learning experience for visitors and provide a multi-purpose space for volunteers, most of whom lived within a 2 mile radius of SCF.

In response to questions and comments from Members, SCF representatives stated that

- The Eco Pod would measure 48sqm and could accommodate 30 pupils. It was not a permanent structure, was made from fully recyclable materials and would have a green roof.
- The existing/café space was very cramped and the eco Pod would be a dedicated volunteer space which would be located to the left hand side of the barn.
- The new structure would improve the amenity value of the site and provide an enhanced quality learning experience for visiting schools
- SCF catered for all age ranges and had a variety of learning programmes and activities to suit all learning needs.
- There would be no changes to livestock and the new Eco Pod would encourage more visitors as an indoor space would provide shelter during bad weather.
- Organisations such as the City Gateway Project was working with young people and volunteers of all ages were involved in directed learning.

Stephen Murray stated that SCF's lease was specific to the provision of learning and farm and related activity on the site. A 10 year lease had been granted and there were 8 years left on the lease. If the Council/King Georges Field Charity Board was so minded, the lease could be extended for a further 7 years without the extension having to be treated as a disposal. However the Section 106 funding was conditional on a 25 year lease being granted.

Surjit Sandhu, Legal Services stated that subject to Landlord consent being given, a formal license agreement was required any lease issues would need to be clarified.

Having considered the presentation by SCF representatives and the observations from officers, Members were satisfied that whilst wishing to protect the livestock and produce on the site, there was a need to improve accommodation on the site. Members felt assured that an Eco Pod would not have an adverse impact on the amenity of the site and the Chair MOVED, it was seconded and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That landlord consent be granted for the construction of an Eco Pod at SCF.

3.2 REPORT TO TRUSTEES: UPDATE ON MILE END PARK

The report was introduced by Stephen Murray, Communities, Localities & Culture who drew the Board's attention to a supplementary report regarding 558 Mile End Road which would be considered later on in the meeting under exempt business. Mr Murray stated that in respect of the Guidelines for Community Access to Mile End Park Pavilions, applications for use would be determined on the basis of set criteria. Having a published policy with transparent criteria was the best way to regulate use and avoid treating particular organisations more favourably. It was also proposed that current unmanaged parking near the green bridge was regulated to bring it in line with other on street parking within the zone and also to address illegal parking.

Members supported the proposals for regulated parking but expressed concerns that lower parking costs in comparison to on street parking elsewhere in the zone, could encourage commuter parking although it would generate income. In respect of the Guidelines for Community Access, Members were concerned that a fixed allocation of hours for use by certain groups could potentially constrain the Council and requested that officers consider the guidelines further.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the guidelines for free and subsidised usage of the Arts & Ecology Pavilions in Mile End Park be considered further and resubmitted to the

next meeting.

- (2) That the development of the car park adjacent to the Green Bridge as pay and display parking managed by the Council be agreed and that parking bays be introduced within the park at Haverfield Road.
- (3) That the parking tariffs be charged at the same rates as on street parking within the zone. (maximum stay 4 hours)
- (4) That the update on the status of commercial units as set out in para 4.7 of the report be noted and that officers be authorised to progress any expression of interest.
- (5) That the request from MAK Ltd (trading as Budgens) to assign their lease for 383-387 Mile Road to Co-operative Group Food Limited be approved and that officers be authorised to progress the assignment of the lease.

3.3 KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITABLE TRUST ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2013/14

The report was introduced by Stephen Adams, Communities, Localities & Culture In response to questions and comments from Members, Mr Adams stated that salary costs were specific to each park and was broken down further by the number of hours used for each Park Ranger. The repairs & maintenance budget also included grounds maintenance costs.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the annual report and accounts for the King George's Field, Mile End Charity (registered number 1077859) for the 2013/2014 financial year as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved
- (2) That the annual report and accounts for the King George's Field Tredegar Square charity (registered number 1088999) for the 2013/2014 financial year as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved
- (3) That the Mayor be authorised to sign the annual reports and accounts for submission to the Charity Commission.
- (4) That officers provide a breakdown of specific areas of spend on the repairs & maintenance budget for the last 5 years and also voids

The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

Chair, Mayor Lutfur Rahman
King George's Field Charity Board