

Matters Arising from 24th February 2011 Meeting

The following provides an update on issues from the North West (Inner) Area Committee meeting held on 24th February that do not appear on the agenda of this meeting.

Minute 58b Hyde Park Road

Work to close a section of Hyde Park Road to through traffic has now stopped, and Highways officers are considering alternative schemes to the original proposal.

Minute 59a Maintenance of the Hollies

Issue over lack of maintenance – Cllr Chastney has written to the Chief Officer for Parks and Countryside to express the Area Committee's concern of the lack of maintenance of the Hollies. The response from Parks and Countryside is summarised below:

Four National collections were housed at the Hollies, however due to lack of space and pressure to house more plant material, a decision was taken to re-locate two of these (Hemerocallis and Hosta) to Golden Acre. There are no plans to move the other two, Philadelphus and Deutzias from the Hollies. There are however plans to develop a new Philadelphus bed near the tennis courts. Land has already been cleared for this and plants purchased over the last couple of years (currently growing on in the nursery) will be planted out this coming Autumn.

As for the Collections Garden itself, many of the shrubs, in particular the Philadelphus are passed there best. Attempts have been made to rejuvenate several with some success, however a propagation programme was started last year and will continue throughout this year to duplicate and eventually replace existing stock.

Pathways: We have a volunteer group set up next month, and we plan to get them to work on clearing many of the ditches which should help alleviate much of the flooding.

A number of issues with staffing have been difficult for the service to resolve because of the freeze on recruitment and mounting financial pressure. However these will be addressed this by moving staff around from within the department to ensure that the Hollies maintains its staffing level. Whilst some staff from Golden Acre and the Hollies do support the Chelsea Garden Project their input is no more than 2 weeks out the year and arrangements are made to cover their duties. Park staff have been asked to be more vigilant in emptying the bins.

Minute 59c Cardigan Centre Lease.

Since the meeting the Executive Board have approved a 77 year long term lease for the Cardigan Centre at a nominal rent.

Minute 61b Royal Park School

Cllr Chastney has written to Asset Management seeking clarification on why Royal Park Community Consortium had been denied access to the caretakers house, to which the following reply was received: The Executive Board have granted Royal Park Community Consortium a period of time to raise funds to refurbish the building for community use. Permission will not be granted for RPCC to occupy any part of the site until they have raised the necessary funding and met the conditions laid out by the Executive Board. Since the last Area Committee meeting, further security work has been carried out including changing the locks and securely boarding the buildings.

Minute 65 Changes to HMO Legislation and Leeds City Council's Article 4 Direction

Cllr Chastney and some other members have written in support of the proposed changes to HMO legislation.

Members asked for details on how the policy will be applied to different parts of the city where applications are received for a change of use from dwelling house to a HMO. This information will be contained within the Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy and a new Supplementary Planning Document. The draft Core Strategy is expected to go out to public consultation in the summer with the draft Supplementary Planning Document likely to go out to public consultation over the winter. Details on the content of these policies are not available as they have yet to be drafted. The community planning officer will present a future paper(s) to Area Committee which will address the relevant issues.