

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2009 AT THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL

Present: Councillors P Kreling (Chairman), D Morley (Vice-Chairman), C Day, R Dobbs, J A Fox, N North and P Thacker

Also Present: Councillor JR Fox

Officers Present: David Denson – Head of Operations
Annette Joyce – City Centre Director
Louise Wilcox – Senior Recreation Officer
Paulina Ford – Scrutiny Officer
Martin Whelan – Senior Governance Officer
Amy Brown – Legal Advisor

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 15 January 2009

The minutes of the meeting held 15 January 2009 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Provision of Formal Play and Recreation Facilities

The Panel received a report on the provision of formal play and recreation facilities in the city. The Head of Operations outlined the changes over the last couple of years in relation to the provision of play facilities within the city.

The Panel made the following comments

- Clarification as to why European Standards were being used instead of British Standards. Officers confirmed that the European Standards had been adopted by the British Parliament as British Standards.
- Cllr Fox asked whether it would be possible for the upgrade of the Werrington Skate Park to be funded through the capital programme. Officers confirmed that whilst this was a possibility other funding opportunities would be sought to maximise the opportunities. Cllr Fox also requested a breakdown of the funding arrangement for all completed, and projected projects.
- Cllr Thacker sought clarification on the timescales for the provision of a new play facility in South Werrington/North Gunthorpe. Officers confirmed that a new facility was planned during phase 2 of the play builder scheme (April 2009-March 2010), although it was noted that it was hoped to complete the bulk of the works prior to the summer holidays.
- Clarification was sought on the susceptibility of the facilities to litigation as a result of accidents. Officers advised that there is a rigorous inspection regime, and that the number of claims was very low.

5. Executive Decisions

The Panel noted Cllr Day's ongoing concerns with regards to the increased levels of traffic that would be generated by the PREL application.

6. Forward Plan

The Panel noted the forward plan.

7. Agenda Plan

The Panel noted the Agenda Plan

The meeting began at 7.00 and ended at 7.30.

CHAIRMAN