

THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Weybridge Hampton Kew

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Minutes of the Executive Review Board 1:30pm Thursday 8th March 2018 Stockyard, Bushy Park

Chair Cllr David Cunningham

Present Cllr Ernest Mallet (SCC), Linda Duffield (Father Thames Trust), Cllr Nick Darby (SCC), Clare Smith (OSC Chair), Cllr Ruth Lyon (EBC), Adam Curtis (Royal Parks), Paula Day (CAG Chair), Rebecca Law (TLS), Jason Debney (TLS)

1.0 Apologies Cllr Corinna Smart (LBH), Cllr Tony Arbour (LBRuT), Cllr Pamela Flemming (LBRuT), Cllr Barry Cheyne (EBC), Richard Copas (EA)

1.1 Declaration of Interest None were declared

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes from the meeting of December 7th had been circulated and Actions were discussed. Cllr Cunningham confirmed he was still hoping to arrange a joint meeting with the Father Thames Trust and the Action Arcadia CIC. It was agreed that this would be useful to outline how the organisations work together and where the TLS fits in. New dates would be sent to the parties. **Action: Chair**
It was also confirmed that Jason and Cllr Cunningham would arrange a meeting with Hounslow, including Cllr Steve Curran (Leader of LBH) to discuss the TLS and Hounslow's contribution to the next financial year.

Action: JD, Chair

Mr Curtis updated the board on the Royal Parks plans for the next year, confirming the Holly Lodge open day in September and the proposal for the Conduit Houses project. It was likely that this project would begin as a history/interpretation project with potential for expansion. Jason updated the board that there was some good opportunities for HLF funding for this project and that it fitted with the Once upon a Royal River Project which would be discussed later on the Agenda.

It had been suggested that a series of meetings be arranged with Councils following the success of the meeting Jason and Becky has with Elmbridge. It was agreed that the first one should be with Hounslow and should include officers but this would have to take place after the elections in May. **Action: JD**

The board also discussed the news of the Draft Revised National Planning Policy Framework which had been released for consultation this week. It was noted that it was likely to have an impact on the London Plan which had been discussed at previous meetings. Planning authorities would be going through it.

3.0 Report back from the OSC Draft minutes had been circulated from the meeting of the 15th Feb and were discussed. It was noted that this meeting had been well attended but there was still limited attendance from Richmond. It was agreed that Jason and Becky had limited access to training and support without Richmond line management – specifically First Aid and Project Management that Philip Wealthy used to do for them before he left. Cllr Cunningham agreed to follow this up with Cllr Paul Hodgins (Richmond Leader). **Action: Chair**
Mrs Smith updated the board that a future paper on crowd funding had been discussed at the meeting and Surrey officer David Greenwood had offered to produce one once Surrey had made some progress on the issues and opportunities.

A summary paper for the budget had also been requested at the meeting which Jason and Becky had produced for the members and had been circulated.

The Memorandum of Agreement had been discussed at the Officers meeting with the document having been circulated with track changes. The finalised draft had been circulated to the board and would be discussed later on the Agenda.

3.1 Report back from the CAG Draft minutes had been circulated from the meeting of the 30th Jan and were discussed. Mrs Day reported that it had been a very successful meeting with useful discussion. Jason updated the board that the “In Search of Arcadia” BBC programme had been put forward for a Royal Television Society Award. The programme was on YouTube at the moment but would likely be shown on TV again if it won the award. Mrs Day reported that the CAG members had discussed the draft London Plan – and questioned what was meant by the definition of “the Thames” in relation to the removal of Metropolitan Open Land status – had it meant water, banks, or accompanying green space. This question still seemed to be outstanding but with the draft revised NPPF coming out it was unknown what would happen to the Plan now. The CAG members had commented that the removal of MoL protection on the tidal Thames could be accepted but not on the non-tidal. Jason reported that the TLS had responded to the consultation.

It had been reported at the meeting that the replacement Richmond Hill Telescope had now been approved by Richmond and would be ordered before the end of the month. **Action: BL**

Sunbury residents had attended the meeting to discuss their objection to the riverside floodlights at the Exel leisure centre in Walton. A request for mitigation had been sent to Elmbridge Council – potentially adding hoods to the lights to prevent spill onto the river.

The CAG members had also raised the issue of illegal moorings again. Cllr Cunningham reported that the River Thames Society was holding a meeting at the EA offices in Reading to discuss the issue on the 24th March. Cllr Darby offered to look into what Surrey and Elmbridge could do along the same lines as the bi-law that Richmond and Kingston had done. **Action: ND**

4.0 TLS Budget 17/18 A copy of the current TLS budget from Richmond had been circulated along with a summary report provided by Jason and Becky on the TLS position as currently expected. The summary highlighted the need for an annual income of £120k to cover salaries and on-costs to be able to function. Partner income should come to £75k this year. National Trust had paid its arrears so the TLS had received £10k this year, and Hounslow had agreed to pay £10k. It was also noted that so far £38k had been agreed for other income sources and a minimum of £5k would be available in donations from the Father Thames Trust with a further £7k offered subject to approval at the next FTT meeting. It was expected that the TLS would balance its budget at the end of the financial year. Partners expressed their appreciation for the work Becky and Jason had done with the Richmond finance team, and recognised the difficulties stemming from the new financial system at Richmond.

2018/19 Budget Partners agreed their support for 2018/19 and Kingston had agreed a further consultation fee for works carried out in the new financial year. It was noted that the expenditure for 2018/19 was expected to be the same; however there was not formally a new budget proposal yet for the members to agree. It was requested that a full budget be presented to board at the June meeting. This was agreed. **Action: BL and JD**

5.0 Memorandum of Agreement The final draft had been circulated to the members. It was noted that the Finance Appendix had been amended. It was noted that funding, even from project work, must include some core/management fee as income to the TLS. Cllr Mallet raised the section about the accountabilities of the CAG with regards to planning comments. Members agreed that they did not want to revisit the MoA wording but Cllr Cunningham agreed to review the CAG headed paper. **Action: Chair and PD**

6.0 Westminster Event Follow-up Jason reported back on the meeting held at that the House of Commons in January. It was noted that the meeting had been very successful. Follow up with partners had already started with renewed interest in the TLS Partnership from Historic England and Richmond Council. The PLA had also expressed an interest in increasing their involvement with the TLS through some new project proposals. Jason reported that during the meeting several MP’s had joined us including Boris Johnson and Michael Gove. Following on from the meeting Michael Gove had requested a site visit to look at the TLS area, discuss how we work and how we implement national policy at a local level. Unfortunately the meeting had had to be cancelled due to the snow but new dates were being proposed for after the local elections in May. It was requested that Becky send round a full briefing note to members. **Action: BL**

7.0 Co-ordinators Report Jason went through a proposal for a new project “Once upon a Royal River” which would act as an umbrella project to implement chunks of the Action Plan. The project brief was circulated and discussed. It was noted that education and outreach was always a difficult factor to implement in the smaller projects of the Action Plan. By creating an overarching scheme it was more likely we would be able to get funding and

integrate several projects. Jason also reported that it was intended that this project could be linked to the Richmond Virginia visit in May as the James River is also a Royal River for the Virginian Indians who visited last year. Cllr Cunningham suggested that there should be more of the floodplain and history elements to it. It was agreed that the project could make more of the Story of the Thames.

One of the factors would be the River Thames Scheme – Jason noted that he would like the umbrella of this project to reach up as far as Windsor to increase the appeal and capacity for connections with other partners. While the members expressed some concern about over extending Jason and Becky’s time outside of the TLS area, it was agreed that, in principle, the idea of a wider Royal Landscape was interesting and the opportunities for working with other partnerships would be good.

Jason reported that one of the initial elements the TLS would like to look at was the Longford River project in the Action Plan. The work the TLS had already done along with the work the Royal Parks was doing in Bushy made for a good opening. By extending up the length of the Longford there was also potential funding available from Heathrow. As a purely man-made water course made exclusively for Hampton Court it fitted with a number of TLS priorities with in the Action Plan. It was agreed that this project would require close working with the Father Thames Trust and Action Arcadia CIC. The members agreed that Jason and Becky could continue to flesh this project out and present the members with more detail at the next meeting. **Action: JD and BL**

8.0 AOB Jason reported that the Rose Theatre Event had had to be postponed. It was noted that the date was still available with the theatre for something else. Jason also reported that Kew had offered the Orangery for a TLS event and would be getting back to Jason with dates for the summer. He also reported that ICAMOS had suggested that the TLS revisit the idea of scoping Arcadia as a World Heritage Site. This proposal would need to be discussed outside of the meeting.

9.0 Planning There were no new planning matters raised

The meeting closed at 3pm

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