



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Cabinet

Cabinet Member's Decisions

**DEPUTY LEADER
(+ ENVIRONMENT)**

**TREES FOR CITIES PROJECT AT
WORMWOOD SCRUBS**

**Ward
College Park And
Old Oak**

£5,000 is requested from the Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust to enable the 'Trees for Cities' Project to undertake tree planting and other tree management work at Wormwood Scrubs. They are also securing Heritage Lottery Funds to undertake related educational/community involvement work based on the Scrubs over the next 18 months.

CONTRIBUTORS

DENV
HLS
RSD

**Decision taken by Cabinet Member on:
11 October 2007**

That £5,000 is made available from the Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust to cover the costs of tree planting and related management at Wormwood Scrubs, with a view to promoting the use and enjoyment of Scrubs for exercise and recreation by the wider London public.

**HAS A PEIA BEEN
COMPLETED?
YES**

AUTHORISED BY:

The Deputy Leader (+ Environment) has signed this report.

DATED: 11 October 2007

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Wormwood Scrubs (WS) is held in Trust by the Council so that it may be enjoyed in perpetuity by the inhabitants of the metropolis for exercise and recreation as required under the Wormwood Scrubs Act 1879. Monies generated for the Charitable Fund can only be used in pursuit of that aim so that the wider London public can use the Scrubs for exercise and enjoyment. This enjoyment and the exercise undertaken in its pursuit arise from both the open nature of the Scrubs (with the views across this part of London) and from the plant and wildlife that makes the Scrubs its home.
- 1.2 Periodically there have been land management of the Scrubs notably tree planting and management to enhance this character and this report seeks the release of monies from the Fund for future work. £5,000 is requested from the Fund to support the registered Charity, 'Trees for Cities' to plant further trees on the Scrubs this autumn and to carry out extra tree management work to that routinely undertaken. These activities lay squarely within the aims of the charitable Fund, that is to say the results of the activity will further enhance the enjoyment of the Scrubs by visitors from the wider London areas as well as the local residents by providing the opportunity to observe and enjoy the quiet contemplation of wildlife in this important open space. In addition 'Trees for Cities' will be carrying out other complementary activities funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Trees for Cities undertook tree planting and community/education activities at WS in 2002 and returned to the site last year as part of their Capital Woodlands Project, which aims to raise awareness and appreciation of London's woodlands and increase public benefit and participation in a range of woodland events and activities. Trees for Cities manage the project and works in partnership with the GLA, Forestry Commission, BTCV, Peabody Trust, Natural England and several London Boroughs. Capital Woodlands is part funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 2.2 The aim of the wider project at WS would be to continue and expand upon last year's activities which included developing an interpretation board, planting three large ash trees, developing a user server questionnaire (following a walkaround with local groups) which was then used at a volunteer day to obtain more details about people's view of the space, a guided native tree walk and an investigative session for local people to find out more about traditional house building techniques using woodland materials, plus six schools educational woodland workshops with classes from Old Oak Primary School.
- 2.3 Trees for Cities would be keen to develop a programme of activities for the next two years working in partnership with the LBHF, the Friends of Wormwood Scrubs, Groundwork West London and other key stakeholders, to include consultation with local residents on further tree planting and woodland management activities and educational activities with local schools. Local residents and other visitors who pass through and use the Scrubs will be encouraged to take part in these activities.

3. WHY TREES FOR CITIES?

- 3.1 Trees for Cities has been working in partnership with local authorities, RSLs, other NGOs and businesses across London for over fourteen years, involving local residents, community groups, young people and volunteers in tree planting and landscaping projects across the city. They have projects in other UK cities such as Manchester and Bristol, and internationally in cities such as Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Ica, Peru.
- 3.2 In London they undertake around 20 projects a year in parks, streets, housing estates and woodlands. Recent projects include street tree planting in Park Royal, the creation of community gardens at Stockwell Gardens and Studley Estates in Stockwell, developing and delivering a 10 year project to plant trees across the five neighbourhoods of Poplar, Tower Hamlets and working in six woodland sites across London undertaking woodland management activities and tree planting. As part of the Capital Woodland project they also undertake training for the long term unemployed/hard to reach groups in woodland management. As part of their training the Woodland Management Trainee Team would help undertake some of the planting and woodland management activities at the Scrubs.

4. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ONE (2007-08)

4.1 Tree Planting and Woodland Management

Further to site visits, consultation and a walkaround the Scrubs last year with key stakeholders including LBHF, the Friends of WS, Groundwork West London and the local BTO representative, they established areas where woodland management and tree planting is required either to benefit the overall aesthetics of the Scrubs and/or will improve the overall conservation of the area. Woodland management areas identified for 2007/08 include thinning in the local nature reserve, planting around 2000 whips i.e. along the eastern boundary of the model aircraft area to join the northern boundary with the isolated copse to create a biological walkway and some specimen tree planting. These are the works which would be subject of the funding sought from the WS Charitable Trust.

4.2 Community and Education Activities

All Trees for Cities community consultation, engagement and educational activities are specifically designed to maximise local and where possible, wider involvement in all stages of the project. They will undertake a variety of activities to raise awareness of the project, generate a higher appreciation of wildlife and trees and encourage all visitors to the Scrubs to take part in the improvements at the Scrubs thereby creating a sense of shared ownership. Activities at Wormwood Scrubs this year are likely to include a public consultation and involvement event on 25 October ('Woodland Heroes') where the first interpretation board for the Local Nature Reserve will be installed, a guided walk will be held during which local peoples' views on the proposed tree planting and woodland management will be sought; education work in local school(s) which will include story telling, literacy workshops and planting sessions; and the establishment of the site as a Forest School with the aim of generating local

interest in forming a West London Forest Schools Cluster Group with 6 Forest Schools session held with a local school (Old Oak Primary).

5. SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Community consultation and involvement can start as soon as October with the public consultation and involvement 'Woodland Heroes' event to take place on 25 October, followed by the educational work in schools and the planning of the Forest Schools sessions. Tree planting and woodland management activities could be launched at this event, but will continue throughout the winter.

6. BUDGET

- 6.1 The overall funding needed for the project this year will be in the region of £15,000 with Trees for Cities raising £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund/another funder. Therefore (in the belief this would best serve achieving the purposes of the Trust) £5,000 match funding is requested from the Scrubs Fund is sought, to enable the project to proceed in its entirety.

7. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- 7.1 The 2006/07 Accounts of the Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust are still being audited and will be reported to members once completed. The draft accounts were received by the Audit Committee on 28 June 2007 and the draft position as at the end of 2006/07 indicated a balance of £464,963. There are no other known calls on the trust's balance which means that there is enough to fund the one-off works contained in this report.

8. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 8.1 The decision to spend funds belonging to the Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust must only be taken on the basis of what is genuinely considered to be in the best interests of the Trust (i.e. Use of the Scrubs for the exercise and recreation of the public generally). Any other object (e.g. purely educational activities for schools and nature conservation not intended to benefit the public in general) has to be funded from non-trust sources.
- 8.2 In this case, the Council should not therefore be primarily motivated by the desire to attract Heritage Lottery money to the extent this will be spent otherwise than on improving the Scrubs and providing facilities in the interests of exercise and recreation of the public (as opposed to distinct sections of the public).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No.	Brief Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of Holder of File/Copy	Department/Location
1	Wormwood Scrubs LNR Management Plan and associated papers	Stephen McAndrews Ext 3329	Environment Dept 5 th Floor HTHX