

THE EXECUTIVE

8 FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

EASTBROOKEND COUNTRY PARK (BEAM VALLEY EXTENSION), MAYESBROOK PARK LAKE (SOUTH) AND PARSLOES PARK (SQUATTS) - DECLARATION OF LOCAL NATURE RESERVES	FOR DECISION	
<p><i>This report concerns a strategic matter and is therefore reserved to the Executive by the Scheme of Delegation.</i></p> <p>Summary The designation of Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley extension), Mayesbrook Park Lake (South) and Parsloes Park 'Squatts' are the second targets to be achieved under the Borough's Local Public Service Agreement with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Following consultation with English Nature, it is proposed to designate these sites as the Borough's latest Local Nature Reserves. This follows the designation of The Chase as a Local Nature Reserve (2001) and Eastbrookend Country Park (2003)</p> <p>Plans showing the proposed areas to be designated are attached (Appendices A-C)</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Executive is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) approve the declaration of Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley extension), Mayesbrook Park Lake (South) and Parsloes Park 'Squatts', as marked on the attached plans, as Local Nature Reserves (LNR's); and(ii) authorise Officers to issue the necessary Notices and enter into the necessary legal arrangements to enable the Declarations to take place. <p>Reason</p> <p>The designation of these sites as Local Nature Reserves will assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of <i>'Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer'</i> and <i>'Raising General Pride in the Borough'</i>.</p> <p>Wards Affected Village Ward; - Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley extension); Mayesbrook Ward; - Mayesbrook Park Lake (South) and Parsloes Park 'Squatts'</p>		
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1. Background

- 1.1 On 16 May 2001 the Executive gave approval to declare part of The Chase Nature Reserve within the Council's ownership as a Local Nature Reserve (Executive Minute 641, 16 May 2001 refers). This implemented Unitary Development Plan Policy G56 which showed a clear commitment to declare Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Status for The Chase Nature Reserve.
- 1.2 The Executive also gave approval on 17 February 2004 to declare Eastbrookend Country Park as a Local Nature Reserve (Executive Minute 283, 17 February 2004 refers). This was the first target to be achieved under the Borough's Local Public Service Agreement with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 1.2 LNR status can only be declared by a Local Authority (or Parish / Town Council with delegated powers) on land in its ownership or where there is a legal interest in the land.
- 1.3 The Council has signed a Local Public Service Agreement with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. One of the targets to be achieved over the period of the agreement (2003-2006) is the designation of further areas of land under the Council's ownership as Local Nature Reserves. In 2005 it is proposed to designate the Ripple Nature Reserve and Scrattons Ecopark as LNR's.
- 1.4 The target for 2004/05 is for Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley extension) to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve (**Appendix A**). This was to include declaring all of the land within Council ownership and that owned by the Environment Agency (which the Council would lease). However, part of the Agency land (10 hectares) consists of the Washlands Reservoir, which will be the subject of major engineering and environmental improvements, therefore this area will be excluded from the LNR designation process.
- 1.5 The areas within the Borough which are of sufficient wildlife value have been substituted to achieve the target of 78 hectares to be designated in 2004/05. These are:
 - Mayesbrook Park Lake (South) (**Appendix B**). This area is part of the Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (Grade 2) designated in October 2003 under the Habitat survey undertaken for the Borough by the Greater London Authority. The LNR designation will include the surrounding areas of woodland, but will not include the Boating Lake.
 - Parsloes Park 'Squatts' (**Appendix C**) This area is part of the Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (Grade 2) designated in October 2003 under the Habitat survey undertaken for the Borough by the Greater London Authority. The area is thought to have got its name- the 'Squatts' as the MOD housing on site was used as temporary accommodation after the War for local people.
- 1.6 Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley extension) has been designated as a Site of Borough Importance (Grade 1) and has been the subject of major environmental improvements, such as Phase 1 (Dagenham East), and Phase 3 (Dagenham Hospital site). It also contains Priority habitats and species as

identified under the Borough's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) which is due to be approved by the Executive on 8 February 2005. Designation of the site as a Local Nature Reserve will assist in recognising the Beam Valley's nature conservation value.

- 1.7 A Management Plan for Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley extension) was prepared and approved by the Environment Agency in September 2001. This document included proposals to declare their land as a Local Nature Reserve. LNR declaration can only be declared where the Council has a legal interest in the land - this is currently being secured by the Borough leasing Environment Agency within the Beam Valley, for which Executive approval was received (Minute 279, 11 December 2001 refers).

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There would be no additional costs to the Council as a result of declaring Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley extension), Mayesbrook Park Lake (South) and Parsloes Park 'Squatts' as Local Nature Reserves.
- 2.2 The declaration of these sites as Local Nature Reserves would enable the Council to bid for funding from English Nature. Acting as a Green Spaces Award Partner, English Nature with the New Opportunities Fund distributes grants specifically for Local Nature Reserves. This funding would enable the Council to undertake further improvement works, which may otherwise not be possible. It should be noted, however, that funding applications to the New Opportunities Fund will generally require London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBD) to provide some matched funding towards capital costs and place the Council under on-going maintenance obligations once awarded

3. Consultation

- 3.1 Formal consultation with English Nature has been carried out, as required in Section 21 (6) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended), and their agreement to the process has been received.
- 3.2 A formal letter of intent to proceed with declaration has also been circulated to the following:

Environment Agency
Countryside Agency
Thames Chase Community Forest

- 3.3 The following officers have seen this report and are happy as it stands.

Jeremy Grint, Head of Regeneration Implementation
Jane Bufton, Head of Corporate Communications
Linda Parker, Corporate Legal Manager, CS
David Waller, Interim Head of Finance, DRE

The following Councillors have also been advised of the proposal.

Lead Members

Portfolio; Raising General Pride in the Borough. Councillor Wade
Portfolio, Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener, Safer,
Councillor McKenzie

Village Ward; Councillors L. Waker, P. Waker, Dale
Mayesbrook Ward; Councillors Blake, Conyard, Hunt

Background Papers

Executive Minute 279, 11 December 2001

Re: Eastbrookend Country Park: Beam Valley Extension And Environment Agency lease.

Executive Minute 641, 16 May 2001.

Re: The Chase Nature Reserve Declaration

Executive Minute 283, 17 February 2004.

Re: Eastbrookend Country Park Declaration of Local Nature Reserve

Local Nature Reserves in England, A Guide to their Selection and

Declaration. Issued by English Nature 1991 (revised 1999).

The London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Unitary Development Plan 1995

Appendix A: Beam Valley Local Nature Reserve designation

Appendix B: Mayesbrook Park Lake (South) Local Nature Reserve designation

Appendix C: Parsloes Park 'Squatts' Local Nature Reserve Designation