

Seething Wells Councillor Working Group - February 2022

Terms of Reference

1. Further to the Council resolution of 27 January 2022, it was agreed to form an all party working group (Working Group)
 1. to continue the action already being taken to investigate additional options available regarding the protection of the wildlife and diversity of the Seething Wells Filter Beds;
 2. to form an all party working group of maximum 6 councillors to take evidence, in public, and report back within 3 months to a strategic committee on realistic options for consideration; and
 3. to continue to support the site being designated as MOL and a SINC, and as such is unsuitable for large-scale residential development.
2. The Working Group will gather evidence in public from stakeholders and interested parties to facilitate an assessment of realistic options for the protection of the wildlife, biodiversity and recognising the heritage of the Seething Wells Filter Beds.
3. The Working Group will report back to a strategic committee of the Council on the realistic options for consideration.
4. The Working Group acknowledges that the 3 month timeframe identified at the 27 January 2022 meeting of the Council has been breached, owing to the Local Elections. An interim report to the Place Committee in September, and a further report containing recommendations will be reported to this committee.
5. Details of how stakeholders and interested parties can submit evidence / make representations to the Working Group will be provided on the Council's website

<https://www.kingston.gov.uk/environment/seething-wells-filter-beds>
6. The membership of the Working Group is to be formed of a maximum of six Councillors representing the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames identified through a request to all councillors to state their interest.
7. The co-chairs of the Working Group to be selected, one from the community and one a sitting councillor. The Working Group may meet on more than one

occasion to ensure it has sufficient time to hear from all parties and assess potential next steps.

8. Note that the Working Group is not a formally constituted committee of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and therefore is not subject to the same statutory provisions in terms of political proportionality.
9. The meetings of the Working Group will be held in public at The Guildhall. Those unable to attend can send representations or questions in advance. Details of where to send any representations or questions will be made available on the Council's website

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10. It would assist the Working Group if representations / evidence given in person or submitted prior to the meeting could
 - State clearly who the submission is from, i.e. whether from yourself in a personal capacity or sent on behalf of an organisation
 - Be concise
 - Include a brief introduction about yourself/your organisation and your reason for submitting evidence, including details of any particular relevant qualifications or experience
 - Include any factual information you have to offer from which the Working Group might be able to draw conclusions
11. Members of the Working Group may ask questions of those making representations / giving evidence.
12. To ensure an orderly meeting and so that all participants can be heard, questions shall be addressed through the chair of the Working Group.
13. The meetings of the Working Group will be webcast, the details of how to view the webcast will be made available on the Council's website

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14. The Working Group recognises that a planning application for the redevelopment of the site may be submitted at some point in the future. As such, Councillors and Council Officers should be aware that making representations / comments that appear to be biased and represent predetermined views may prevent them from involvement in determining a future planning application.
 15. It is advised that all Councillors of the Working Group should declare their membership of the group at any future meeting of the Planning Strategic or Neighbourhood Committees where the Seething Wells Filter Beds site will be discussed.
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