

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the progress of the restoration of the historic landscape at Leasowes Park.

Prior to the presentation of the report a member of the public read out a letter on behalf of the Friends of the Leasowes and indicated that the initial request for a breakdown of the costs of the restoration was made on behalf of the Friends of Leasowes at the last meeting of the Committee, which was prompted by the concern over the delays in the project which had started ten years ago. The overwhelming view of park users was that the funds remaining for the site work needed to complete the restoration programme had been seriously eroded by the extended timescale of the project, which contrasted with the conclusions reached in the report. The present situation was that only £584,569 remained for the work from initial funding of £1,742,080 showing that 66% of the available money had been used at the current stage of the programme. The estimated final funding of £584,569 available for the final stage of the work also included unidentified totals for items such as the temporary Wardens Base and that the actual funding available for the work in Virgils Grove could be less than that figure. The report raised a range of further questions associated both with the use of funding and issues of a more general nature and the Friends of the Leasowes considered it essential that an opportunity be made available to review the information provided in the report together with a discussion of all the factors that had delayed the progress of the restoration programme from its outset. It was also considered that discussions should involve a representative of the Restoration Team and input from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In responding the Head of Design and Projects indicated that he would be willing to attend a meeting together with a representative from the Heritage Lottery Fund. He then presented the report.

Arising from the presentation of the report several Members expressed concern and requested that a detailed analysis on where the money had been spent be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee. It was also suggested that the matter be referred to the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education to enable a proper scrutiny exercise to be undertaken.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That a further report to include a detailed analysis on where the money had been spent be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (2) That the matter be referred to the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education for a detailed investigation.