

Advisory Committee on the Environment Built Environment sub-committee - report

Meeting date/place: Friday, September 2, 2016 @ London Home Builders' Association

In attendance: Ken Birchall, Mike Bloxam, Lois Langdon, Diane Szoller; Tom Arnos (guest)

Regrets: *none*

The meeting commenced at 17:20.

1. Combined sewer overflows & bypass

There is too much surface run-off (pavement, parking lots, etc.). The City needs to look at "rainwater abatement strategies" to reduce this run-off, with examples such as permeable surfaces. We would like to know how many combined sewers remain to separate.

Related: Lake Erie algae blooms, as much of the phosphorous comes from the Thames River. Plan to have a discussion at the October ACE meeting.

2. West London dyke reconstruction

The continuation of the near-vertical block reconstruction of the dyke will further distance people from the waterway. We need a system-wide change of thinking when it comes to dealing with the river. What is the cost of the dyke design/construction versus the feasibility of the Fanshawe Dam failing?

The City needs to improve communications on built environment projects, and the impact on the ability of citizens to interact with nature must be considered more seriously.

3. Underused public land

Underused/unused public land could be used to grow food; the City should be asked for allotments to allow such lands to be available to citizens.

The meeting concluded at about 18:11.