

Report Title: **PARK ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

Report of: **Mark Evison, Park Manager**

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform the Committee of the recent activities carried out in Alexandra Park

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the report.

Report Authorised by: **Mark Evison, Park Manager:** 

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3. Executive Summary

3.1 This report details the activities and projects that have recently taken place in the park.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

4.1 N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 No specific background papers were used in compiling this report.

6. Description

Park Events

- 6.1 The Conservation Volunteers have been booked for another year as the tasks they do are very popular. Their most recent project is replacement of the chestnut pale fencing around the conservation pond. This fencing excludes people and dogs from the pond and its surrounds in order that birds can nest without disturbance.
- 6.2 A new hedgerow has been planted along the boundary of the pitch and putt course. Native species such as hawthorn, hazel and field maple provide new nesting and foraging opportunities for birds and insects. The hedgerow was mulched with material recycled from tree and shrub pruning works.
- 6.3 The tasks take place on the second Sunday of each month from 10.00am and all are welcome to join in. Register interest by calling the *British Trust for Conservation Volunteers* on 020 7278 4294.
- 6.4 The Lakeside Café recently hosted an outdoor art exhibition called Good News. This follows the successful event last year and provides a great opportunity for park users to experience site-specific art produced by local artists.
- 6.5 The Friends of Alexandra Park recently hosted a *Park Open Day* in the Grove. The event saw the launch of the new Grove Nature Trail and park photo competition. The event was well attended by families who had the opportunity to plant sunflower seeds in recyclable pots and take a look at the birdlife through a powerful telescope.

Park Concessions – Workshop Building

- 6.6 The lease for the Workshop building in the Grove was advertised and five tenders were received. An urgent Panel of the Board was convened to consider the tenders on 29th April 2009.
- 6.7 The Trustees agreed to lease the building for a children's soft play centre and ancillary café. This will provide a high quality facility for the families in the local community.
- 6.8 The agreement is subject to planning permission and the tenant submitted a planning application on 15th May 2009. A further update on this matter will be reported to the next meeting.

Park Concessions – Pitch & Putt Course

- 6.9 The pitch and putt course has opened for the summer season. This year coaching and a kids club will be on offer and discounts offered at off-peak times.

Green Flag Award

- 6.10 Judging for this award took place on 29th May and the results will be announced in July. The contribution made by volunteers and community groups is greatly appreciated and forms a large part of our submission.
- 6.11 The judges spent six hours touring the site and their feedback was very positive. They were impressed with the Grounds Maintenance operation, site security and the work of the Friends of Alexandra Park.

External Funding Bids

- 6.12 The Alexandra Park Ornithological Group have been shortlisted by Haringey Council for a 'Making a difference' grant. Their proposal is to improve the habitats available for birds and other wildlife in the area adjacent to the reservoirs.
- 6.13 The Environment Agency has contributed over £13,000 towards a project to improve the Boating Lake for fish and angling. New fish-refuges will be installed together with new aquatic vegetation. Two new fishing platforms will also be constructed to supplement the existing four.

Grounds Maintenance

- 6.14 The Grounds Maintenance team continue their work in all weathers and the park continues to attract compliments from users
- 6.15 A survey was recently sent to all members of the Board, the Advisory and the Consultative committees. The return rate was disappointing at 13%, but the results were very encouraging with most answers in the good or very good category.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Committee note the report.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Trust's Solicitor has been sent a copy of this report.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 A new tenant for the Workshop Building will secure a new income stream for the Trust.
- 9.2 The LBH Chief Financial Officer has been sent a copy of this report.