



JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

9 MARCH 2023

Report Title: Go Ape Mini-Land Rover Proposal

Report of: Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: To consult the Advisory and Consultative Committees on a proposal submitted by Go Ape for a new activity in Alexandra Park.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - N/A

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the proposal by Go Ape for a new mini-Land Rover activity in Alexandra Park and provide comments/ to the Trustee Board.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Go Ape have operated a high ropes adventure course in the Park since 2017, investing around £1,000,000 and providing experiences for approximately 400,000 visitors.
- 2.2 To encourage adventurous activities for younger visitors, some of whom may not yet be tall enough to climb the junior ropes course, Go Ape are proposing a mini-Land Rover activity. The mini-Land Rovers are fully functioning electric cars specifically designed for children between the ages of 3-11 years and operate at a speed of up to 5 miles an hour.
- 2.3 The infrastructure requirements include a delineated track around the field, a welcome building, storage container, an additional gate in the fence, new steps on the existing steep bank and associated signage.
- 2.4 The project will require planning permission.
- 2.5 In accordance with the Trust's obligation to consult the Advisory Committee on such matters the Advisory and Consultative Committee members are invited to consider the proposal and formalise any feedback to the Trustee Board.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Go Ape team first approached the Trust with a proposal for two new activities: mini-Land Rovers and Axe Throwing. Following initial discussions about the

suitability and noise impacts, the proposal for an Axe Throwing activity was declined.

3.2 The new welcome cabin and storage facility would enable the Go Ape team to hold ground-based games too and the Trust's Executive Team have discussed consequently renaming the area '*the Activity Field*'.

3.3 The area would be improved as part of the plan, for example creation of a wildflower meadow and native planting. The details of an ecological approval plan are subject to discussions with the Park Team.

4. Tenure

4.1 A 10-year supplementary lease has been proposed by Go Ape and this would be subject to the Trust's obligations to obtain the best rent reasonably achievable. The current lease for the high ropes course runs to 2038.

5. Public Benefit

5.1 The proposal has been considered through the Trust's internal Strategic Vision process and has progressed to this stage. The proposed activity is in line with our mission to be an all-year-round cultural visitor destination, where people come to be entertained, engage with our fascinating past, are inspired to explore their creativity and experience our unique heritage setting.

5.2 The former deer enclosure has remained closed since the deer were moved and has been used only occasionally for the Segway activity. This proposal offers a new use for this area with the benefits of the proposed ecological improvements and increases the opportunity for younger/ smaller children to participate in the Go Ape experience.

5.3 The advice of the Advisory and Consultative Committees is used to assist the Board when considering the proposal. The Functions of the Advisory Committee as laid down in the Alexandra Park and Palace Act 1985 include to promote the charitable objects and to consider and advise the Trustees on any proposal which require planning permission and the furtherance of recreation and leisure in the Park and Palace

6. Legal Implications

The Council's Head of Legal & Governance has been consulted and has no comments.

7. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Go Ape proposal document.

8. Background Papers – None