

Report Title: **PARK ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board notes the report.

2.2 That the Board note the progress made on the Workshop lease.

2.3 That the Board agree to the Park Manager submitting a planning application to LB Haringey for the proposed deer enclosure extension.

2.4 That the Board note that the cost for construction of a path across Redstone Field is additional to the Trust's planned expenditure for this financial year.

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

Contact Officer: **Mark Evison, Park Manager,**
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Wood Green N22 7AY. Tel No. 020 8365 2121.

3. Executive Summary

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

3.2 Officers are progressing the Workshop lease negotiations.

3.3 The Trustees undertook a site visit on 23rd June 2009 to consider the proposals for the extension to the deer enclosure and new path across Redstone Field.

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

Reports and draft Minutes of APCT Panel meeting, 29 April 2009

6. Description

Park Events

6.1 The park has hosted many community events so far this year including:

- Bird watching Walks
- Friends of Alexandra Park Open Day
- Lakeside Art exhibition
- Hornsey YMCA 10k run
- Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk
- Chinese State Circus
- Haringey pre-school picnic
- Children's funfair
- Farmers' markets
- Bicycle treasure trail (Haringey Schools)
- Football in the Community summer programme

Park Concessions – Workshop Building

6.2 The agreed operator for the Workshop Building obtained planning permission for the project. The lease negotiations are being concluded and the refurbishment should start in September, subject to completion of the lease before any works start.

External Funding Bids

6.3 The Alexandra Park Ornithological Group were successful in their bid for a 'Making a difference' grant. They now have £2,000 for projects to improve the habitats available for birds and other wildlife in the area adjacent to the reservoirs. Once agreed, the work will be carried out over the winter period.

6.4 The work for the Environment Agency Urban Fisheries Grant has commenced. New fish-refuges have been installed together with new aquatic vegetation. Two new fishing platforms will also be constructed to supplement the existing four.

Boundary Maintenance

6.5 In order to protect the park against encroachment by neighbours the boundary policy of Haringey Parks Service has been adapted for the palace grounds.

6.6 The encroachments are assessed individually and action is taken according to type of encroachment and the length of time it has been in place.

Green Flag Award

6.7 The park was awarded a Green Flag for the second year. This reflects the hard work of our staff and volunteers who assisted in the submission. A Green Flag Award ranks the park amongst the best in the country and is the national standard for parks and greenspaces.

6.8 The Friends of the Park were heavily involved in the day, the Chairman, Gordon Hutchinson met with the judges, and other members opened the Park Information Centre.

Deer Enclosure extension

- 6.9 The Deer Manager has recommended a further extension to the fenced area to improve conditions for the fallow deer. Currently the deer rely heavily on supplementary feed in the form of pellets, haylage and fresh vegetables.
- 6.10 It is proposed an area approximately 40x40m be added to the southern end of the southern compound. The installation of chainlink fencing to match will be subject to a planning application.
- 6.11 This proposal was presented to the Advisory Committee and Consultative Committee in February 2009 and no comments were made at that time.
- 6.12 The Trustees resolved on 24 February 2009 to carry out a site visit to the enclosure in order to consider the fencing and the affect it may have on the landscape of the park.
- 6.13 This site visit took place on 23 June 2009 and all trustees were in agreement that the proposal was in keeping with the landscape of the park.
- 6.14 The Park Manager will now progress with obtaining the necessary planning permission in order to proceed with installation of the fencing.

Proposed Footpath across Redston Field

- 6.15 The Warner Estate Residents Association (WERA) proposed a hard-surfaced path to link the Park Avenue North Entrance to the footpath network within the park.
- 6.16 This proposal was discussed by both the Advisory and Consultative Committee and both committees resolved:

“that the proposals by Warner Estate Residents Association in respect of a proposal for a all-weather path to replace the present informal, and very muddy, desire line from the top of Park Avenue North across the Redston Road playing fields and the old race-course to join the Lower Road at the eastern end of the car park, be endorsement for recommendation to the Alexandra Palace and Park Board on 24 February 2009”

- 6.17 At that Board meeting on 24 February 2009 it was resolved that consideration of the proposal be deferred pending a site visit and professional conservation evaluation.
- 6.18 The Trustees met on site on 23 June 2009 to discuss the proposal, representatives from WERA were in attendance.
- 6.19 The Chair's view is that Redstone Field and the old race course are both crossed by a number of desire lines and no route is more important than any other. He wished to preserve the existing green space by avoiding new such hard surfaced paths in this area of the path.
- 6.20 As reported to Board on 30th June 2009 finances have been reviewed and the park budget does not have the funding available for a project of this scale. The hard surfaces maintenance budget is fully committed for 2009-10.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Board notes the report.
- 7.2 That the Board note the progress made on the Workshop lease.
- 7.3 That the Board agree to the Park Manager submitting a planning application to LB Haringey for the proposed deer enclosure extension.
- 7.4 That the Board note that the cost for construction of a path across Redstone Field is additional to the Trust's planned expenditure for this financial year.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Trust's solicitor was provided with a draft of this report and his advice has been taken into account in the production of this final version.
- 8.2 The LBH Head of Legal Services 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. The rental figures were previously discussed in the exempt section of the Panel meeting on 29th April 2009.
- 9.2 This building currently attracts small annual costs due to insurance, standing charges on the utilities and maintenance of the fire alarm system. Letting the building on a fully repairing basis will pass those costs onto the tenant.
- 9.3 The two grant funded projects will provide additional improvements in the park with no impact on revenue budgets.
- 9.4 The cost of the deer enclosure fencing was original quoted at £9,000. However, alternative prices have been received at around half of this.
- 9.5 The estimated cost (2008) for the construction of a new footpath across Redston Field is around £30,000. This figure is additional to the Trust's planned expenditure and is not budgeted in 2009-10.
- 9.6 The LBH Chief Financial Officer has been sent a copy of this report and his comments are shown at Appendix A.

10. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

- 10.1 Appendix A: Comments of the LBH Chief Financial Officer.

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Appendix A

Gerald Almeroth, LBH Chief Financial Officer has been supplied a copy of this report and provided the following comment:

“The report is noted and agree that no additional works above the approved budget should be instigated.”