



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST
BOARD MEETING
15 JULY 2024

Report Title: Wetland Project planning report
Report of: Mark Evison, Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability
Purpose: To inform the Trustee Board of the Rewild London project to create a new reed bed in the Park.

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

1. Recommendations

To note the contents of this report and to consider any feedback from the stakeholder committees.

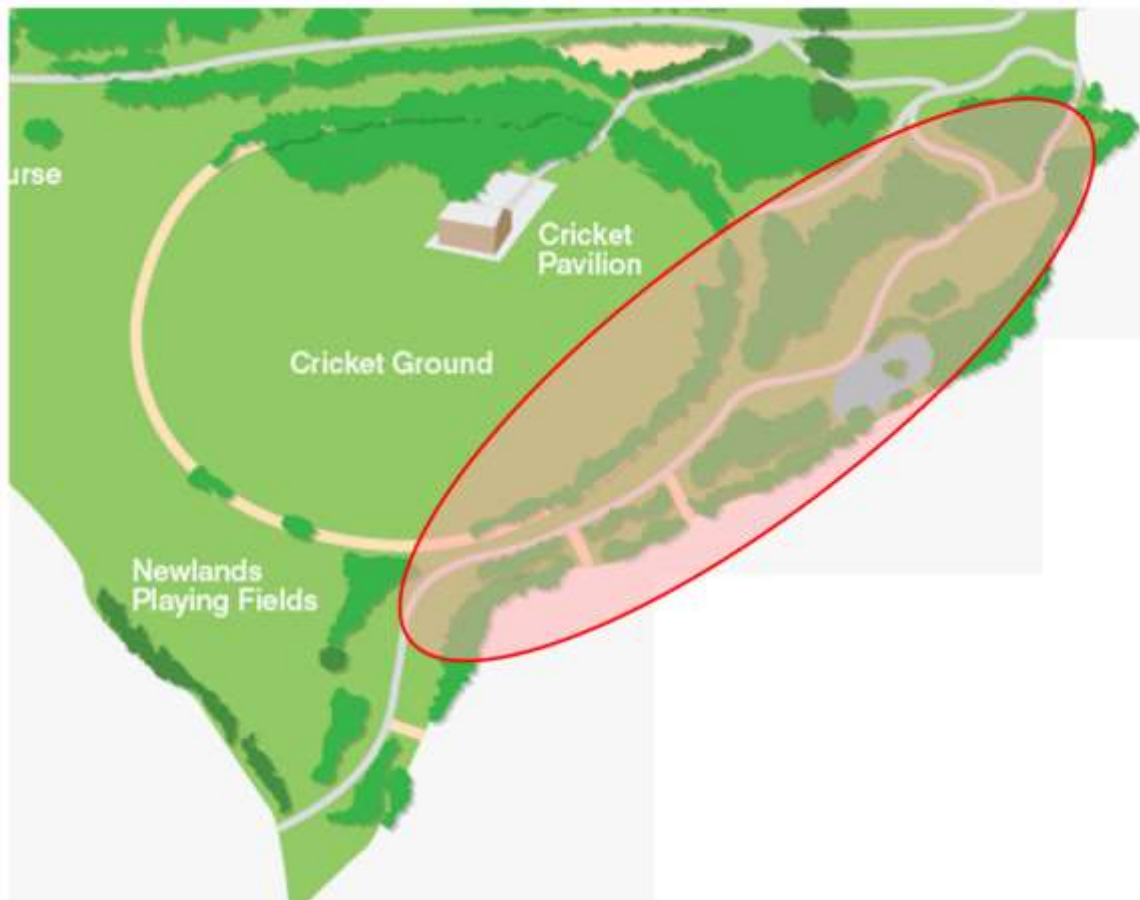
2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the recent Rewild London grant from the Greater London Authority (GLA). This grant will fund delivery of phase 1 of a project to manage surface water flows and increase aquatic habitats on site.
- 2.2 The SAC and the CC were invited to consider the information during their respective meetings on 1st July and provide advice or feedback to the Trustee Board, which will be verbally reported at the meeting.

3. Background

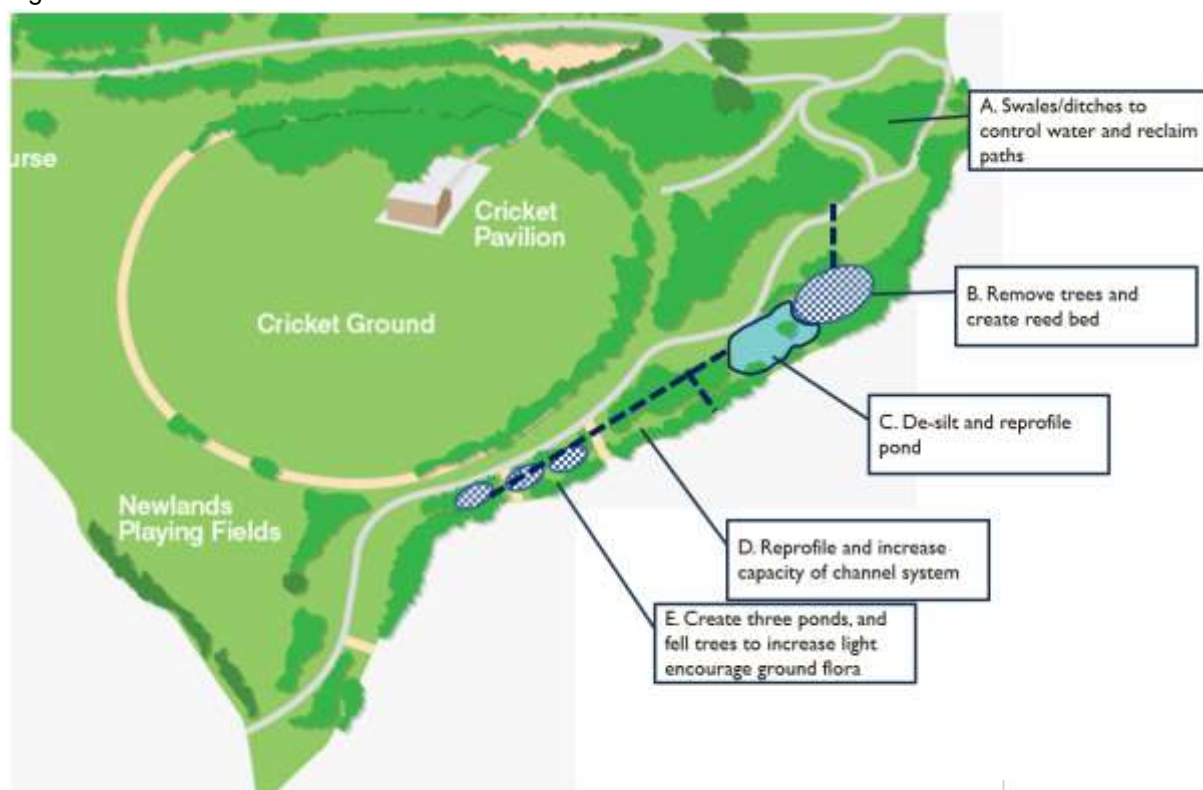
- 3.1 The Trust's new vision is to be a sustainable home for all that we do. This project will increase the diversity and quality of the habitats on site to benefit wildlife.
- 3.2 Earlier in 2024, the Great London Authority (GLA) awarded a £50,000 grant for a wetlands project in the southeast corner of the Park, figure 1. This grant follows a feasibility study (also funded by the GLA) to determine how to manage surface water and create a new reed bed habitat. The £50,000 is an initial amount to fund phase 1 of the project.

Figure 1. Project location



- 3.3 The feasibility study was carried out following the Strategic Vision work undertaken to consider projects across the Park and Palace over 25 years and a report published by the Hornsey Wetlands Action Group (HWAG) about the wider location including the Hornsey Reservoirs and former filter beds owned by Thames Water.
- 3.4 The scheme has been developed with support from HWAG and the Friends of Alexandra Park and includes several elements, figure 2. Photographs of the areas can be found in Appendix 1. The project is intended to achieve the following outcomes:
- A. Control surface water and reclaim muddy paths
 - B. Establish a new reed bed to increase diversity of birds using the site
 - C. De-silt the pond to increase its capacity and quality
 - D. Increase the capacity of the channel system to reduce the peak flows of surface water entering the public drainage system
 - E. Create new ponds to increase the area of aquatic habitat

Figure 2. Elements of the scheme



3.5 Whilst the grant will only fund an initial phase of works, planning permission will be sought for the whole scheme. The elements that will form phase 1 are likely to be A, D and E. The final detail of the works selected for phase 1 depends on the costings.

3.6 Felling of mature trees will be required to deliver the scheme. The trees are all protected as the site is a conservation area. However, the Council's Tree team have advised they have no objection in principle given the overall aims to increase habitat structural diversity and species richness.

3.7 Planning permission will be sought over the summer and it's intended that works will start in the autumn.

9. Legal Implications

The Council's Assistant Director for Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and advises that an early consultation should be undertaken with the Local Planning Authority as to whether or not an environmental impact assessment and the Habitats Regulations assessment will be required.

10. Financial Implications

The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments.

11. Use of Appendices: **Appendix 1** - Rewild Project photographs

12. Background Papers – None

Appendix 1

- A. Woodland area – proposal to control surface water and reclaim muddy paths with ditches and swales.



B. Adjacent to conservation pond – fell trees and establish a new reed bed to increase diversity of birds using the site



C. The conservation pond - de-silt the pond to increase its capacity and quality



D. Wet woodland - increase the capacity of the channel system to reduce the peak flows of surface water entering the public drainage system



E. Wet woodland - create new ponds to increase the area of aquatic habitat

