

Report Title: **Park Update**

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

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform the Alexandra Palace and Park Board of the matters pertaining to the park at the current time.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board considers whether the park is entered for the various award schemes.

2.2 That the Board agree to a site visit to the Garden Centre and the Pitch and Putt Course in view of the tenant's proposals for those sites.

2.3 That the Board notes the remainder of the report.

Report Authorised by: **Andrew Gill, Interim General Manager**.....

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

3. Executive Summary

3.1 This report summarises current matters relating to 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 N/A

6. Park Award Schemes

- 6.1 Giving due regard to recent efforts to curtail spending, the board are asked whether the park should be entered into the Green Flag Award, Green Heritage Award or London in Bloom competitions on 2011. The direct entry costs this financial year are around £500. There are indirect costs in officer time, administrative support and printing costs. At inspection time (financial year 2011-12) there would be a targeted spend of variable parks budget to prepare the site for the judges, this could reach around £3,000.
- 6.2 The benefits of achieving the awards are:
- the Heritage Lottery Fund are satisfied that their investment is being protected according to the park development contract
 - public confidence in a site that reaches the national standard for green space
 - positive press coverage.

7. Park Tenants

- 7.1 Board Members will recall that a Planning Enforcement notice was served on Little Dinosaurs in April 2010. A Planning Inspector carried out a site visit on 22nd November. The Park Manager has requested an update on this case for the Board as landlord of Little Dinosaurs. The usual timetable for determining a case is five weeks from an inspection date. The timescale has been extended due to the snowy weather and forthcoming holiday period.
- 7.2 The Board will recall a deputation by Golfwise regarding a development project for the pitch and putt course. A planning application was lodged in early 2010 but this has now been withdrawn. They are planning a smaller planning application for the mini-golf part of their proposal. A site visit is recommended to meet the tenant and discuss the proposals.
- 7.3 The Garden Centre tenant, Capital Gardens Ltd has plans for a development on their site. The Advisory and Consultative Committees have considered the proposals. Similarly, a site visit is recommended to meet the tenant and discuss the proposals, this can be carried out in conjunction with the visit to the pitch and putt course suggested in 7.2 above.
- 7.4 345 preschools development project for the islands building was approved by the Board on 30th November. This is proceeding according to the timetable presented at that meeting.

8. Car Park Charging: Data collection

- 8.1 Following the Board's consideration of alternative methods of generating income the Interim General Manager was asked to report back with a feasibility study regarding Car Park Charging.
- 8.2 In order to determine the vehicle numbers using the car parks traffic counters were installed at nine locations on 26 November 2010 and will remain in place until early February 2011. They will collect data for a number of the key event-types during that period, for example:
- Music Concert and darts
 - 'non event' weekend
 - Large public exhibitions and trade shows
 - Private balls and banquets
- 8.3 The period of operation will also show the difference between the traffic before and after the ice rink is opened.
- 8.4 Staff cars, deliveries, operational vehicles have been monitored in order to remove non-chargeable traffic.
- 8.5 It is hoped that a preliminary view of the data will be available to the Board for the meeting in February 2011.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Board considers whether the park is entered for the various award schemes
- 9.2 That the Board agree to a site visit to the Garden Centre and the Pitch and Putt Course in view of the tenant's proposals for those sites.
- 9.3 That the Board notes the remainder of the report.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Trust solicitor was consulted and had no specific comments on this report.
- 10.2 London Borough of Haringey's Head of Legal Services was consulted and had no specific comments.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 London Borough of Haringey's Chief Financial Officer notes the contents of the report.

12. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

N/A