

Alexandra Park & Palace Advisory Committee

on 25th January 2011

Report Title: **Park Activities Update**

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

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform and update the committee of the recent activities in the park.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the content of this 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 The update includes information regarding tree work, the activities of the Friends of the Park, car park data collection and park tenants.

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. General Matters

- 6.1 Tree Safety works were carried out around the park before Christmas. The park has been divided into three zones and these have been prioritised for inspection. 2011 is the third year, so by the summer all of the trees in the park will have been inspected for defects. Any required felling or pruning works will be carried out in stages according to recommended timetables.
- 6.2 The Friends of Alexandra Park have arranged a calendar of themed events throughout the year. These include walks to look at the parks birds, bats and notable trees. Volunteers from the Friends Group also open the park information centre in the Grove on a monthly basis.

7. Car Park Charging – Data Collection

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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
- 7.3 The period of operation will also show the difference between the traffic before and after the ice rink is reopened. Staff cars, deliveries, operational vehicles have been monitored in order to remove non-chargeable traffic. It is hoped that a preliminary view of the data will be available to the Board for the meeting in February 2011.

8. Park Tenants

- 8.1 The Planning Inspectorate published its decision regarding the Little Dinosaurs Case on 9th December 2010. The appeal failed, but the compliance period of two months was been extended to six months.
- 8.2 The tenant is intending to remove the paving slabs in early 2011. He will use the remainder of the six month period to consult with the planning department, and other stakeholders, in order to find a solution to the building's storage issues.
- 8.3 If a new planning application is required for alternative storage provision and any proposals will be presented to the Advisory and Consultative Committees.
- 8.4 The Park Tenants met as a group with Trust Officers before Christmas. At this meeting, details about the APP Conservation Area and planning requirements were spelled out. A line-by-line review of all nine park leases has been carried out and any issues arising are in the process of being regularised.

8.5 The 345 Preschool has started the redevelopment of the Islands building in the Grove. This work is expected to take up to three months.

9. Recommendations

9.1 That the committee notes the content of this report.

10. Legal Implications

10.1 The Trust's solicitor has been sent a copy of this report.

10.2 LBH Head of Legal Services has no specific comments.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 The LBH CFO has been sent a copy of this report.

11.2 The car park data collection will assist the Board when considering whether to pursue additional income from a car park charging scheme in the future.

12. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

N/A