

**Alexandra Park & Palace Informal Joint Meeting of the  
Advisory Committee and Consultative Committee**

**on 8 November 2011**

Report Title: **Park Update**


Report of: **Mark Evison, Park Manager, Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To advise the Committees of the latest position regarding park issues

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the Committees note the content of the report

Report Authorised by: **Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive**.....

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Alexandra Palace Way, Wood Green N22 7AY Tel No. 020 8365 2121**

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 The Park Management Plan is currently being updated and members are asked to provide input as appropriate

3.2 The cricket club improvement works are due to start at the end of October and should be completed in the New Year

3.3 Conservation volunteers carry out monthly tasks in the park and these are summarised in the report

3.4 The customer survey was reopened after the poor original response. The response this time was much better and the feed back was generally good.

**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 Management Plan**

- 6.1 The Park Management Plan is under review as part of the annual cycle for the Green Flag Award application. The deadline is January 2012. Members of the committee are encouraged to seek the consult their groups and associations about the current and future management of the park and then feedback to the Park Manager by the end of November.
- 6.2 This is an important time to input into the plan as it will contribute to the regeneration project.
- 6.3 A summary of the current park management plan is available on the park's pages of the website, [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)

## **7. Park Properties**

- 7.1 The redevelopment project at the Islands building in the Grove (345 preschool) has been completed. The facility has reopened and the management committee is updating the Health and Safety paperwork to take account of the changes to the building. Replacement fencing has been installed along the boundary and internally.
- 7.2 The lease renewal for CUFOS is almost complete following negotiations.
- 7.3 The lease and health & safety compliance of all tenants was reviewed and appropriate action has been taken by the tenants accordingly. This situation is frequently reviewed and reported to the Board as necessary.
- 7.4 Following a planning enforcement case at the Actual Workshop (Little Dinosaurs), the Planning Enforcement Officers set a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> November for the tenant to complete the necessary remedial works. The storage sheds have been relocated and paving slabs lifted according to the agreement. The outstanding works on the decking and removal of the waste materials has been chased by officers and at the time of writing the work is due to be completed by the deadline.
- 7.5 The tenant has also been requested to regularise the three outstanding conditions on the planning permission, namely arrangements for ventilation, external lighting and signage.

## **8. Cricket club and grounds**

- 8.1 The improvements to the drainage of the cricket ground should be underway by the time of this meeting. Practical completion is due in the New Year.
- 8.2 Members will recall the works involve installing a new drainage system to the football pitches to enable the facility to be sub-let to Heartlands High School.
- 8.3 The project will also entail alterations to the boundary ditch and connections across the park to main drains. This kind of work inevitably leaves muddy scars across grassed areas, but the Council's contractor has a twelve-month maintenance period once the works are complete.
- 8.4 The plans for the consultation on phase 2 of the project have been delayed whilst the phase 1 works were being finalised. By way of a reminder, this project is being managed by the Council's *Building Schools for the Future* team.

## 9. Nature Conservation

9.1 52 volunteers completed 107 volunteer workdays for BTCV at Alexandra Palace in ten monthly sessions between January and October 2011. Their activities are summarised in the table below:

January & February	Cleared areas of the cricket scrub to maintain the open areas we had created previously and clear the footpath and removed saplings from a strip of scrubby grassland to regenerate it as a wildflower meadow.
March	Clearing of overgrowth from the remains of the old Lido foundations which can now be seen from the footpath alongside the reservoir.
April & May	They worked on fencing enclosing the pond in the conservation area which has been routinely vandalised and also widened the nearby footbridge.
Summer months	Five stag-beetle loggeries were constructed in and around the old Blandford Hall woodland area and two <i>habitat towers</i> were constructed against the old wall close to the Conservation Hut at the Bedford Road entrance.
October	Conservation pond: clearing sedge and cutting back the bankside vegetation to open up the view of the pond from the footpath.

## 10. Friends of Alexandra Park

10.1 The Friends of the Park are a successful and active group. They have their own website promoting the park which attracts around 600 hits per month. This details their activities and other events taking place in the park. The address for the website is [www.friendsofalexandrapark.org](http://www.friendsofalexandrapark.org)

10.2 They also co-ordinate a varied programme of activities throughout the year to attract visitors and promote the wildlife and heritage of the park. Topics include history, fungi, birds, trees and bats. Each of their ten walks attracts around 30-40 participants.

10.3 Volunteers from the Friends group have also staffed the park information centre every Sunday since July. Park visitors can drop in and find out about the park, activities and even ask directions. Over 300 visitors attended over the summer period.

## 11. Park Customer Survey

11.1 Members will recall that there was a very low response to the customer survey organised by the grounds maintenance contractor, John O'Conner Ltd. The survey was reopened and this time there were 65 respondents. The "top answer" to the nine questions about the quality of maintenance was either Good or Very Good. Individual comments and responses have not yet been fully analysed, but any specific problems will get an appropriate response, in due course.

**12. Recommendations**

12.1 That the Committee notes the content of this report.

**13. Legal Implications**

13.1 The Council's Acting Head of Legal Services has been sent a copy of this report.

13.2 The Trust Solicitor's advice has been incorporated into this report.

**14. Financial Implications**

14.1 The LBH Chief Financial Officer notes the contents of this report.

**15. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs**

15.1 N/A