

Report Title: **Park Update**

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

1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Board with regard to Park management and events

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board notes the content of the report.

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

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 report describes the current grounds maintenance and tree works.

3.2 2011 was a good year for bird sightings, a new species was added to the all time list.

3.3 The usual range of park events including the art show, funfair and circus are booked for 2012.

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. Background

- 6.1 The grounds maintenance core works continue to be delivered successfully by the contractor, John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance Ltd. The variation items agreed by the Board in April 2011 have been implemented. For example, shrub planting around the boating lake has been carried out and a programme of repainting park benches has begun. Regular baiting of rats in the Park and Palace is keeping the numbers down from previous levels.
- 6.2 Tree safety works are on-going. The whole Park has been surveyed by specialists over the past three years. The backlog of dead, dying and dangerous trees is reducing slowly as the works progress. The number of trees and limbs falling in stormy weather appears to also be reducing as a result of this programme. Another three-year programme of surveys will start in the spring.
- 6.3 Surveying of the street lighting along Alexandra Palace Way and around the Park is underway with a view to bringing forward urgent repairs given that significant sections of lighting are dysfunctional.
- 6.4 The illuminated bollards on the traffic-islands on Alexandra Palace Way are being replaced with new solar powered units. These reduce the consumption of electricity and avoid the need for expensive re-cabling in future. They are also flexible and more able to withstand vehicle strikes.
- 6.5 The Alexandra Park Ornithological Group report that 2011 was a good year for birds. A total of 108 different species were recorded in the study area (which includes the Wood Green Reservoir as well as the Park), the fourth best total on their records. One more species was added to the all time list, namely, Short-eared Owl. Unfortunately, the sighting was a single observer record. This brings the overall species total for the study area up to 174.

7. Events

- 7.1 The Park continues to offer a wide range of events and leisure activities throughout the year.
- 7.2 The annual circus returns to the Fairground car park in April, this year the Great Russian Circus are performing.
- 7.3 The children's funfair is back in May and over Easter as usual. The summer fair starts a little late this year as their usual space is required for the Holland Heineken House tenancy. For those members who may not be aware, Manning's funfairs have been associated with Alexandra Palace for over 100 years.
- 7.4 The Lakeside Art Show returns for a fifth year. Local artists exhibit bespoke art to a different theme each year. The event is free and runs for a nine days in early summer. This exhibition is now on the local calendar along with other events in nearby Queen's Wood.
- 7.5 The Mayor of London's sporting participation funding has helped set up a weekly 5km cross-county run in the park. Organised by Parkrun! The event is one of a series right across the country, they all take place at 9.00am on Saturday mornings. The run is free to enter and is managed by local volunteers. The runners have clocked up around 1,000km since this started in December 2011.

7.6 City and Country Farmers' Markets continue to run their popular weekly markets on the Lower Road.

7.7 The Friends of the Park 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.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the Board notes the content of this report.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 The Council's Acting Head of Legal Services has no comments on this report.

9.2 The Trust Solicitor has no comment on this report.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 The management works described are funded from the existing Park budget and the Park events contribute to the Trust's income.

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

11. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

11.1 N/A