

Report Title: **Park Update**

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

1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Joint Committee regarding activities in the park.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the committee notes the content of the report.

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

Contact Officer: **Mark Evison, Park Manager, Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust,
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3. Executive Summary

3.1 Various routine repairs and have been carried out around the park, and on Alexandra Palace Way.

3.2 There may be significant resurfacing work and barrier replacement ahead of the Olympic Torch Relay.

3.3 The park's calendar of community regular community events is described.

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 Maintenance and repairs have been on-going around the Park. Around £10,000 was spent on Alexandra Palace Way before Christmas to repair a number of potholes and other defects. The gravel on the Fairground Car Park was replaced following a water leak last year.
- 6.2 Sections of defective street lighting have been re-energised after many months. The illuminated bollards on the traffic islands along Alexandra Palace Way have been replaced by solar-powered versions. This removes them from the street lighting electrical network reducing future defects and energy consumption.
- 6.3 The entrance to Redston Field from Park Avenue North has been improved. This area has been very boggy and wet during the winter months. New pipe work has been installed with a layer of type-1 stone to improve drainage.
- 6.4 Five sets of steps in the Park have been renovated as the treads were becoming unstable and were therefore a trip hazard.
- 6.5 There are discussions underway with Haringey Highways regarding significant resurfacing work on Alexandra Palace Way ahead of the Olympic Torch Concert in July. There may also be some renewal of barriers and bollards to improve control of vehicles around the access points to the Palace building, the West Slip Road, for example.
- 6.6 Three 'Royal Oak Saplings' have been purchased for planting to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's diamond jubilee. This will be planted in the Grove to ensure continuity when the existing oak trees reach the end of their life/
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 The Park continues to offer a wide range of events and leisure activities throughout the year. The annual circus returns to the Fairground car park in April, this year the Great Russian Circus are performing.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 City and Country Farmers' Markets continue to run their popular weekly markets on the Lower Road.

6.13 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.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the committee notes the content of the report.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The Trust solicitor has no comments on this report.

8.2 The Council's Head of Legal Services has no comment on this report

9. Financial Implications

9.1 The Council's Chief Finance Officer notes the contents of the report.

10. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

10.1 N/A