

Report Title: **Park Activities Update**

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

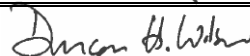
**1. Purpose**

1.1 To inform the committee about progress on the Red Bull BMX event in the Park, the programme of infrastructure repairs and the water tank for the cricket ground.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress of the Red Bull BMX event in the Park.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the ongoing repair works along Alexandra Palace Way, the associated disruption and that representatives of groups inform their membership.
- 2.3 That the Committee notes the updated proposal for a water storage tank at the Cricket Club.

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 Red Bull BMX event is due to take place on 19-20 May, so will be over by the time of the meeting. The preparations are underway at the time of writing.
- 3.2 Various repairs to street lighting, footpaths and Alexandra Palace Way will be taking place in May and June and there will be associated disruption.
- 3.3 The proposal for a water storage tank at the cricket ground has been revised and planning permission and Board approval will be sought over the next few weeks.

**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. Red Bull BMX Event**

- 6.1 The ecologist returned to site on 20 April and resurveyed the grassland. No unexpected or interesting species were identified so no new recommendations were made. The build-up for the event on 19-20 May commenced as planned. At the time of writing, preparations for the event are in full swing. By the time of the meeting the event will be over and dismantling of the event site will be underway.
- 6.2 A site office and storage yard has been set up on the Fairground car park and the dirt has been delivered to site. The event area and access lanes have been fenced off. The park is extremely wet underfoot because of the heavy rain in April and early May and some changes to the layout of the fencing have been necessary. The main access lanes for dumpers and other vehicles have been protected with temporary trackway. The fencing has been moved around on site by hand to prevent excessive vehicle movements.
- 6.3 The course itself is being constructed on a base of timber boards and plastic sheets. This is to protect the underlying grass from disturbance and prevent loss of dirt. The machinery will work on these boards. Red Bull have a vested interest in protecting the ground to maintain the appearance of the site for their event.
- 6.4 Some of the income from this event has been earmarked to directly fund some Park improvement projects. The work is likely to involve further improvements to street lighting and management of the trees on the South Front to improve the views of the London panorama.

## **7. Infrastructure repairs**

- 7.1 The Council's programme of repairs along Alexandra Palace is progressing well. Repairs to the mini-roundabout and other areas of granite setts are due to be completed by 11 May. The footway resurfacing and patch repairs are scheduled to be completed by 17 May.
- 7.2 The main resurfacing of the road will start on Monday 21 May and continue until the middle of June. This will involve closing the road to **through traffic** between 9.00am and 5.00pm and a diversion of the W3 bus along the standard route. Minor variations to the programme may occur due to factors such as the weather or events in the Palace. The Ice Rink, garden centre and other businesses on site will be open as usual.
- 7.3 The street lighting repairs along Alexandra Palace Way and the south front have been ongoing for several weeks. A number of new cables have been laid to re-energise a number of lamps and the Grove is now the only major circuit with outstanding problems. This work is due to be completed by the autumn.

## **8. Improvements to Cricket Grounds**

- 8.1 The committee will recall that the proposal for a water storage tank was discussed at the last meeting on 6 March. Concerns were raised that the tank would not be

concealed sufficiently and requested that further options were investigated before a decision was made.

- 8.2 The Park Manager met with representatives of the Alexandra Park Club and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) to discuss the options in March and a proposal was submitted by BSF (attached). This proposal uses landscaping and the current topography to minimise the impact of the tank when viewed from Newland Field. The existing four storage containers will also be relocated to the area east of the club house to reduce their visual impact.
- 8.3 The proposal will be subject to a planning application by BSF following this meeting. Due to the timescales, this application will run concurrently with the application for permission from the Board. Committee Members as individuals or through their representative associations or groups still have the opportunity to comment through the standard planning process.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the Committee notes the progress of the Red Bull BMX event in the Park.
- 9.2 That the Committee notes the ongoing repair works along Alexandra Palace Way, the associated disruption and that representatives of groups inform their membership.
- 9.3 That the Committee notes the updated proposal for a water storage tank at the Cricket Club.

## **10. Legal Implications**

- 10.1 The Trust's solicitor has no comments on this report.
- 10.2 The Council's Head of Legal Services has no comments on this report.

## **11. Financial Implications**

- 11.1 The LBH Chief Financial Officer has been sent a copy of this report.

## **12. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs**

- 12.1 Sketch plan of water storage tank relating to section 8 of the report.